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HISTORY

OF

Floyd County

IOWA.

BY

CLEMENT L. WEBSTER.

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HISTORY OF

FLOYD COUNTY, IOWA.

Indians, Accounts of the Pre-Historic Races who once occupied this region as their home
Outline of Events in the pioneer history Biographical sketches, Geology, Botany.

BY

CLEMENT L. WEBSTER.

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ABOUT fifteen years ago a "History of Floyd County" was published. This work, while of a great value in many respects, was yet quite imperfect in many ways; and, like most works of its kind, dealt largely with the more prominent events and incidents of the county's history, leaving out much of the every-day events and incidents which go to make up the true history of this region.

This method of history writing may be compared to a study of the few isolated island peaks which dot the ocean's surface; when, in fact, the true object sought was to gain a complete knowledge of the character and geography of the great ocean's floor.

A careful study of these island peaks, while of great value, would, of itself, prove delusive and misleading, if not also coupled with an exhaustive knowledge of all other portions of the vast area at the bottom of the seas, of which these islands form only a part.

In the same way much of the history matter published is misleading, as it fails to present a true history of the people or times it claims to represent.

While in the limited space available, we do not expect to be able to enter into any exhaustive details of the subjects treated, still, we hope to present the matter in some respects in greater detail than has ever yet been attempted in any other treaties on this subject. There will also be introduced much material which goes to make up a complete history of this region that has never before appeared in print.

As far as practicable the subject matter has here been arranged in its true chronological order.

As stated, nearly all the matter contained in this history is original and has been personally collected by the writer. The scientific portion is the result of his own personal investigations and research; and the illustrations, unless otherwise stated from photographs, are all from drawings of scenes, things and events, made by him.

CLEMENT L. WEBSTER.

Geological History of Floyd County.

Area, Surface and Drainage.

FLOYD COUNTY occupies a geographical position in the eastern part of the northern central portion of the state, and is bordered on the south by Butler, on the east by Chickasaw, on the north by Mitchell, and on the west by Cerro Gordo counties. It is somewhat less than medium size in superficial area, containing 504 square miles, or about 322,560 acres.

The surface of the county is mainly a beautiful, gently undulating prairie region, originally destitute of timber, save for the isolated prairie groves and [illegible] narrow belts whi[illegible] the streams; bu[illegible] which skirted the w[illegible] is now dotted everywhere by beautiful artificial groves.

This county is watered mainly by the Big and Little Cedar and Shell Rock rivers, and Lime Creek; all beautiful and rapid streams, furnishing important water power at various points along their course. The water powers are, in this day of steam and electricity, far less valuable to the inhabitants than formerly.

At various points along the course of the streams mentioned rock exposures occur, often forming bluffs which rise from ten to over 150 feet above the bed of the streams.

Rocks—Kind and Distribution.

The rock strata all has a southerly trend or dip, is often "wavey" or undulating, and extremely variable lithologically. All the rocks are referrable to the Devonian age, save a local outlier of coarse silicious sandstone and vesicular conglomerate—doubtless of Cretaceous age—located in the southwestern portion of this area.

For the purpose of convenience, we will here, provisionally, class all the Devonian rocks of this county into two great groups—the Hamilton and the Hackberry—and will speak more fully, first, of the Hamilton, which is that portion underlying all the county, save the extreme western portion. As before stated, the lithological character of the rocks of this county vary greatly; those of the Hamilton varying from a hard, fine-grained, brittle lithographic limestone, to a coarse friable brown shale. Most of these rocks contain fossils in greater or less numbers, although the lithographic rock contains, usually, but few.

Along the Big Cedar above Charles City, fine exposures of the rock of this group are seen, and often rise from a few feet to 150 feet above its bed. Rock suitable for building purposes, manufacturing into lime, for lithographic and ornamental purposes, occur in the [illegible] abund[illegible] the greatest [illegible] throughout the county, and is easily quarried almost anywhere along the streams and often long distances away from them. The people of the county do not, as yet, by any means fully realize the wealth they possess stored up in the rocks of this county; although for more than thirty-five years they have been constantly drawing upon this rock wealth.

Story of the Rocks.

Let us for a brief moment glance over a few of the pages old nature has so indelibly written upon the stony leaves of her great book here at our very doors. Way back in the distant past—so long ago that man cannot measure the time—this whole country was covered by a great sea. The rocks and the fossils tell us that the condition of this old ocean changed as time went on, and that, as a whole, it was a rather shallow sea, although varying much in this regard from time to time; and that the climate then was temperate or warm; and that the waves beat upon the shores of this old ocean not far away, for there were beeches and shore-lines then as now, and the rock, moreover, tell us that there was a time then when the old ocean's bed at what is now Charles City, and for miles above and below, was slowly raised from the ocean's depth and the shell-covered mud of its bottom was for a long time exposed to the burning rays of that old Devonian sun until it was deeply checked and cracked by its heat. All this is shown by the "mud cracks" in the rocks of our quarries today.

For a time the old ocean's bed lay exposed to the sun and the winds, while the waters had rolled away. But by and by another change came and this region gradually sank and the waves rolled over it as before, and the shells, and corals, and sponges came again and all went on as merrily as in the times they before had known. No evidence have we that another change of this character again took place in this region, although strange forces were at work about this time, and later, both to the north and to the south, breaking and fracturing the rocks.

About the beginning of this Devonian age there existed to the south of us, and peahaps even here, an area of land, for here grew some strange old [illegible] plants and trees, such as [illegible] we now know could exist only in a tropical climate. Their remains were buried and so preserved to us of a different and a distant time, and reveal something of the nature of the climate and condition of things in that by-gone time

The time of the Hamilton group slowly drew to a close; but this only ushered in another strange period, which represented the final culmination of the Hamilton, and a great change in the ocean and its floor; for then was precipitated a great deposit of deep blue clay, which is now well shown, both at Rockford and at Hackberry, for it is of this old sediment that the fine brick at Rockford are now being made The scientific importance of this old stage is great. During this period there existed here in places a rich but depauperate marine founa of special interest, and doubtless much richer than is now shown by the organic remains so far discovered in it. This greater richness is demonstrated by the abundance of carbonaceous material contained in these rocks and which is due, at least to a large extent, to organic origin. Not only do we find the remains of ancient animal life here, but terrestial plant life is also abundantly represented, showing that in that old time the ancient shore-lands were not far away, and that land plants then grew under the warming influence of that old, fast-fading, Devonian day. Up to the close of the field season of 1897 this formation was supposed by geologists generally to be utterally devoid of organic remains of any kind, but at that time we discovered at Rockford for the first time, the rich fauna and flora mentioned. The blue color of the clay derived its origin from the decomposition of either plant or animal remains.

GLACIAL BOULDER.

The Hackberry Group

As nature's stability is maintained by her instability, so another change took place, and this in some respects more wonderful than anything in its line which had preceeded it.

When this change took place the blue clay was no longer present and none was being deposited, but in its stead a varying sediment was thrown down by this old sea, which now present to us hard and compact as well as shaly and clayey rocks. This ocean remained here for unnumbered ages, its waves beating upon its nearby shore, which, so far as we now know, did not reach so far east as where our own beautiful city now stands. During no other time here did old nature write more plainly upon her stony leaves the history of her doings than she did then. And this culmination was a most fitting one, too, perhaps one of the most interesting ages that this old earth had known 'till then—at least so to me it seems.

Here in this last chapter of the old Devonian book, we read: That the material of the rocks was laid down fast, as it was near the shore; that the waters

and the climate were warm and the sea was smooth. But more wonderful, perhaps, than all else was the untold myriads of interesting animal forms that flourished in these quiet waters, and which are preserved to us in such beautiful form today. The writer has here collected more than one hundred different kinds. The beautiful shell forms were varied and many, varying from less than a quarter of an inch in length to those weighing many pounds. When they lived in the shallow shore-waters of this ancient sea, their colors and hues must have been wonderfully bright; but now, after the long imprisonment in their silent tomb, their beautiful colors have forever faded and gone. Could man but have existed then, what beautiful shells he might have gathered as he wandered along the shore.

The old sponges then were numerous and of various kinds—none like those existing in the world today. The corals here lived in vast numbers—many having a fan-like, spreading form, with exquisite net-work structure; others assumed a horn-like form, while others were branching and untrue. Others still were massive, and bore whole colonies of beautiful coral insects, who were its builders. The bottom of this old ocean must have presented a garden of beauty then, for the corals ever were and ever will remain the "beautiful flowers of the sea." The waters were clear, warm and shallow, for only in such quiet seas can these forms exist. The crinoids, or "sea lilies" lived here in great profusion. Reared on their tall, many jointed stems, and with their fringed and branching arms, they must have presented a wonderfully contrasting beauty as they revelled among their associates of the deep.

That strange old crustacean, or "crab-like" animal, the trilobite, here lived, but was very few in number. The many chambered shells—represented by the nautilus of our present seas—here existed. They were generally straight and round, aud sometimes attained a length of several feet. Through this ancient sea, too, swam the then "Leviathan of the deep," the old armor-clad fish of the Devonian period. These monsters possessed great irregular teeth, and were armored by massive, bony plates. These represented the highest forms of animal life which had lived on the earth 'till then. And such are some of the old records which nature has written upon her stony leaves telling us of her wonderful works in the past.

After the close of the Hackberry period, ages must have elapsed, during which this whole region was dry land. But after this there was another local subsidence of the land, at least in a portion of what is now south western Floyd County; and here at least an arm of the old Cretaceous sea was stretched forth, and coarse silicious sands deposited along its shores, which were washed by the waves; for these sands (now rock) still retain the old ripple marks. This old sea finally receded, and has never again returned to visit our fair land.

But this strange, though true, geologic story of our county has not yet ended; for there was still one more great and wonderful period of geologic history-making necessary before this then dreary land could be fitted for the abode of man. For before this last great epoch—the Glacial period—the surface everywhere was barren and naked rocks the product of the consolidation of the materials of the old oceans floor.

The Glacial Period.

Far back in geologic times, nearly all of North America from the Atlantic coast on the east to what is now Central Nebraska, or beyond, was covered by a vast thick, slowly moving ice sheet. The climate was of Arctic coldness. This great ice mantle moved slowly to the south, cutting and grinding the underlying rocks and kneading and mixing them into a rich soil. How long this strange condition and this Arctic coldness existed, none can say, save that the time was vast and long Finally a great change took place and the immense fields of ice—often hundreds and perhaps thousands of feet in thickness—began slowly to melt, and the water making channels for itself, imperfectly drained away; and the great glaciers receded to the north. The county now was wet; but as it grew warmer, became forested by the cedar and the pine; much of its surface was marshy, the peat bogs abounded and a thick negetable soil was formed. While most of the trees in the vast forests of this ancient time were cedar, yet the pine, oak, elm, sumac, walnut, willow, ash, hickory, tamarack also lived. The great swamps were overgrown with peat, coarse grasses and other plants which bore seeds and propagated themselves as they do today.

During this ancient time the forests—especially in portions of Floyd County and other parts of Northern Iowa—were far more extensive and dense than the timber existing in the same region today. During this period there existed a more or less abundant fauna. Insects lived and sported about during the summer time; also the rabbit, the skunk and other forms lived, and it is known that scattered representatives of the giant herbivoreon fauna of the preceding eon reappeared in these ancient coniferous forests. The time when all this animal and plant life existed is known to geologists as the "Interglacial period." The interglacial period was long; how long may not precisely be said; but if the period of our written history of man be called an age this period must have been nearly thirty times as long.

Finally another great change took place, and the ice came down from the north in lobate form as before, sweeping over what is now Minnesota and Iowa, following nearly the same direction as that pursued by its predecessor. Again boreal or Arctic climate must have heralded the intruder, and the ice-formed and water-laid deposits of the interglacial time must have been frozen, for they were wonderfully little distorted by the later ice action. But the second ice sheet was thinner than the first, perhaps because it pushed forward more easily over the comparatively smooth interglacial surface. This vast ice-sheet overrode the great forests and swamps of the interglacial lands and it is the old stumps, battered logs, peat and other plant remains which lived during this period, that our well diggers and others in excavating, find and marvel so much about.

It is the soil produced by this second ice sheet that now covers the old forest bed, and forms the surface of our country here today. We are accustomed to say that the old glacial period is past, but in truth this is not so, for it has only receded to the north where it covers the northern country—Greenland and Iceland—hundreds and thousands of feet beneath its frigid mantle; and here it is slowly but constantly moving southward again. It is within the bounds of reason to say that the future may see this fair country of ours again overridden by this monster of the Arctic lands; and the records of our time and the period in which we live, be known in the future as the second Interglacial Period.

The drift soils of our county are rich and very productive; though varying much in their physical character. The prevailing surface formation is a deep, rich, black loam; then come clays, sands and gravels. The more sandy soils are better seen bordering the various streams of the region, while the heavier soils occupy the intervening areas.

Scattered over, and throughout, the drift of this entire county, are large numbers of igneous and sioux quartzite boulders, varying in size from those a foot in diameter, and less, to those as large as a common haystack, and weighing hundreds of tons. Very many of these boulders have been planed and smoothed, and sometimes beautifully polished and striated, by the ice's action.

Beginning about a mile north east from Charles City, and extending in a northwest and southeast direction, and continuing on for miles and miles, is a great boulder line. This however, is not the only boulder line of this character in this portion of our state; as a portion of one may be seen—and extending in the same direction—about a mile north from Bassett, in Chickasaw County. These curious lines of glacial boulders are of great geological interest; and have been quite fully described by the writer in a paper which appeared in the American Naturalist some time since. Since then, however, some new facts have been obtained regarding them.

The valleys of the streams are beautiful, and vary considerably in width, being from one fourth mile or less to even two miles in width. Some times one valley side will be abrupt and high and the stream bordered by high and abrupt cliffs of limestone, while the other side merges imperceptably into the adjoining uplands. Again in another locality the opposite side will be high and rough, while the other will be low. This diversity of topo-

phy lends a beauty and a charm to the landscape that otherwise would be wanting. Certain portions, at least, of the valleys of the Shell Rock and Big Cedar, are undoubtedly of pre-glacial origin. Speaking in general terms, the soils of their valleys may be divided into two great groups—the Aluvial, and the Modified drift. The former variety occupies considerable, though irregular, areas, and is by far the richest variety of soil in the county; it being mainly a deep black soil, very rich in humus. In all the valleys of the main streams of the county, well defined terraces are seen.

The Modified drift of these valleys is of much interest, and is composed mainly of coarse and fine sands, coarse gravels and small boulders. Usually overlying this is a stratum of rich humus-stained soil generally a foot or two thick. Almost everywhere the coarsest portions of this formation are very discordently and complicatedly stratified; and especially is this true of the Shell Rock valley. At the various sand and gravel pits here, this interesting feature is finally shown.

In October, 1892, some workmen while engaged in one of these gravel pits, at Rockford, unearthed a portion of the well preserved remains of a Mammoth; most of which, through inexcusiable ignorance, they destroyed. On learning of this discovery, I at once visited, and made a careful study of the place, and those portions of this old animal which still remained. A short article was at this time published by me in the Rockford Register (and afterwards printed in the Intelligencer), giving a general statement regarding this discovery, as well as a few general facts regarding this animal and its associate, the Mastoden, both of whom in ancient times roamed over the prairies of this portion of our state. Because of the importance of this discovery, and also in view of the fact that only a few months ago, a portion of another skeleton of this species—or perhaps a part of the same one found at Rockford, which had by the fierce current then been carried farther down the valley—was discovered in this same drift formation at Marble Rock a few miles below, it is deemed not to be out of place here to incorperate the article mentioned.

Mammoths and Mastodons.

Among the many strange and gigantic animals which once, in ages long gone by, roamed the earth, none were of more colossal or unwieldly proportions than the extinct mammoths and mastodons. This earth was their home at a time far back in the Glacial period The remains of no other extinct mammals are of greater general or scientific interest than that of these ancient forms. Gigantic elephants, of nearly twice the bulk of the largest (or average) individuals that now exist in Ceylon or Africa.

The more common species of this ancient elephant (Elephas primogenius) lived in herds in England, and extended their wanderings across the Siberian plains to the Arctic Ocean and Behring Strait and beyond into North America Its body was covered with a redish wool and long black hair. The tusks of one individual discovered measured twelve and one half feet in length, and was curved nearly into a circle. At the mouth of the Lena river in Northern Siberia, one of these animals was found, at the beginning of the present century, frozen and encl sed in ice. It measured sixteen feet four inches in length, to the extremity of the tail, exclusive of the tusks, and nine feet four inches in height. It retained the wool on its hide, and was so perfectly preserved that the flesh was eaten by the dogs.

There existed in America three species of these ancient forms. Elephas primogenius seems not to have gone far south of the parallel of forty degrees. The American elephant ranged from Georgia, Texas and Mexico on the south to Canada on the north, and to California, Oregon and Alaska on the west and northwest. The species appears to have been most abundant to the south, in the Mississippi valley, it preferring a warmer climate than Elephas primogenius, which confined its wanderings mainly to the regions farther north

A few years ago the writer discovered a skeleton of one of these ancient mammoths on the border of Mexico. Mastodons are met with most abundantly over the northern portion of the United States. The best skeletons have been dug out of marshes, in which the animal had become mired. One of the finest skeletons of this animal is set up in the museum of the late Dr. Warren, of Boston. It was dug up near Newburgh, New York. Its height is eleven feet; the tusks 12 feet long, two and one-half feet being inserted in the sockets, When alive, the height must have been twelve or thirteen feet, and the length, adding seven feet for the tusks, twenty-four or twenty-five feet. Remains of the undigested food were found between his ribs, showing that he lived in part on spruce and fir trees which was mainly the food of all the ancient elephants. The mastodon differed from the other elephants mainly in the form of its teeth and in its usually somewhat larger proportions

The "Mammoth" (Elephas americanus)and Mastodon both roamed over the prairies of Iowa during the far remote glacial period. The skeleton discovered in the gravel pit at Rockford, was that of a mammoth. At the close of the glacial period in Iowa, the valley of the Shell Rock was filled with a raging, rushing torrent, derived from the melting of the vast receding ice sheet which had covered the face of the country. By this rushing torrent the drift materials of the valley were sorted and rearranged, and the gravels and sands discordantly stratified, as seen at the gravel pit at Rockford, and at other points farther up the valley.

During this time this ancient elephant was imbeded here in the shifting sand, and here remained entombed for unnumbered ages, unknown and unthought of until finally brought to light by the workers in the pit. Brought to light at a period of the world's history when it would have done the most good, had it not been so ruthlessly destroyed. The destruction of a large portion of this most valuable relic is a positive loss to every worker in natural science, and a deeply to be regretted loss to Rockford, for but few places have ever had the good fortune to furnish to the world so valuable a specimen. The last remnant of this mighty race of giant mammals existing upon the earth today, is to be found in the elephants of India and Africa; and even they are disappearing from off the face of the earth.

The Loess.

About the close of the Glacial period in Iowa, the vast volume of water derived from the melting of the receeding ice sheets, was often gathered into lake-like expansions along the drainage areas of that primitive surface. During this time their waters in many places deposited a fine yellow clayey sediment (mainly), in which are found many shells, similar to species now living. This peculiar deposit is seen in various portions of our state; being especially well developed along the Missouri river, at Council Bluffs, and other places. At the deep railroad cut at Floyd station, in our own county, this same peculiar formation may be seen.

Development of the Drift.

In no other portion of Iowa—save in the extreme northeastern corner of the state, where the drift is entirely wanting—does the drift formation attain to such a thinness as it does in Floyd County. Along nearly every stream, both large and small, as well as along very many of the drainage depressions of the county, the underlying limestones may be seen coming to the surface. And this is also true regarding regions far removed from any and all waterways and drainage defiles.

Clays.

There occurs in various places in the drift formation of this county, extensive and valuable deposits and beds of clay, suitable for the manufacture of several varieties of the finest grade of brick. A good grade of brick is manufactured from the blue clay occurring just below the base of the hackberry group.

Sands and Gravel.

An unlimited quantity of the finest grade of sand for building and many other economic purposes exists in various portions of Floyd County; one bed, difficult to be surpassed, outcropping on the farm of John Turner, about three miles from Roedford. Extensive beds of fine gravel occur at various points, especially along the valley of the Shell Rock; and is used extensively for railroad balast.

Ocher's or Mineral Paint.

In the extreme southwestern portion of Floyd County there occurs, on the farm of A. Mosher, an extensive deposit of a good grade of ocher or mineral paint; and at other localities similar, though not so extensive, deposits exist. There is also known to exist, deposits of yellow ocher, in other portions of the county. If properly handled, these natural resources of wealth might be made remuniative to their owners and a source of value to the county.

Igneous Boulders.

Although this county possesses an unlimited supply of good building stone; and a supply more than adequate for all needs of her citizens; still the igneous, or dirift boulders found over the surface, are quite extensively used for cellar walls, basements, underpinnings, etc.;and properly dressed and laid, presents a very atractive appearance, and forms masonry of unsurpassed durability.

Marbles.

At Charles City there has been quite extensively worked what is locally known as "Charles City Marble." This material is really a heavy-beded brownish drab lime stone, containing great numbers of old fossil sponges; and which when cut and polished presents a most beautiful appearance. A partial failure was at first experienced in the manufacture of this material; this however, owing to the lack of sufficient knowledge regarding its nature and capabilities. For many indoor uses and decorative purposes, this material, when properly selected, might prove of much value. For mosiac or inlaid work, these old sponges, when cut and polished are unsurpassed. From this material A. H. Treat, of Charles City, has manufactured a most beautiful and valuable mantle; as well as other indoor furnishings.

Natural Gas.

From time to time considerable excitement has been created in different places through the county, and elsewhere in different portions of the state, by the discovery of natural gas in digging wells, and at times considerable money has been spent in investigating the matter. This gas invariably originates from the old forest bed; and has never yet been known to occur in sufficient volume to be of any remuniative or economic value, and probably never will. From none of the superficial deposits or any of the stratified rocks underlying Floyd County can natural gas, in paying quantities, ever be obtained.

Mineral Oil.

The hopes entertained by many at Charles City of obtaining mineral oil in paying quantities here, or elsewhere in the county, is a delusion, and never can be realized; as none of the conditions necessary to its production exists in any of the rocks of the county.

Artesian Wells.

The chances of obtaining a good artesian well in the underlying rock strata in this county, is so remote that none who understand the question would feel justified in making the attempt; especially as many attempts of the same character have been made in regions immediately around us, and under the same conditions as exist here, and have invariably met with failure. It may be possible, however, that in some portions of the county, artesian wells of limited capacity and duration may be developed in the drift formation; as has proven the case in some of the adjoining counties.

Springs.

A considerable number of springs occur throughout the county, some of which are exceptionally large and fine, and send forth a large volume of the purest water. During the early settlement of the county, springs were far more abundant than now; many of them drying up as the county became more fully settled and cultivated.

Zinc, Iron and Copper.

From time to time nuggets of zinc, copper and iron have been found in the drift in various portions of the county; and has led many to entertain high hopes of obtaining the metals here in quantity; and they have on some occasions expended more or less money in a vain search for them. The iron and copper ores found here are wanderers from their native homes to the north beyond the limits of our state, and have been brought here by the great moving ice sheets during the glacial period. The zinc, also, has been brought to us in the same way, but doubtless from some point not so far distant.

Caves.

A few small, though quite interesting caves occur in the limestone of this county; one of the largest of which is situated on the Cedar river a few miles above Charles City. From this a spring of pure cold water issues forth. Another, though somewhat smaller cave, occurs on the farm of O. H. Lyon, which is situated about two miles northeast from Rockford. This cave is in reality a large sink-hole; and is the culmination of quite an extensive drainage depression. It contains one fare, sized room—for a cave of this character—which culminates in a rather narrow fissure beyond. The often great volume of water which passes into this cave at certain seasons of the year, apparently issues forth again in the form of a spring in a small pond about a mile farther south.

Coal in Floyd County.

At various times during the history of the county, much excitement and interest has been manifested by many people over the discovery of lumps and small fragments of coal found in the drift, and has several times led to the expenditure of considerable time and money in a vain search for that which can never be obtained in paying quantities from any of the rocks in this county. One instance in point was during 1884, when the "coal excitement" ran high at Nora Springs, where a company was formed to work the supposed extensive beds of coal thought to underly that section, and where expensive drillings were carried on prospecting for this mineral. It is needless to state that this work was fruitless of any good results, save that of gaining a little wholesome experience.

Gold in Floyd County.

At different times during the county's history, some little excitement has been occasioned by the purported discovery of gold in some of the valley sands of this region; although in this county prospecting has not been prosecuted sufficiently to demonstrate much. Gold in small quantities may, and in fact does occur in the drift sands in various portions of this county, as well as in other portions of the northern and northeastern portions of our state, as has been demonstrated by a personal study and investigation of the regions.

In referring to the question of the occurrence of gold in the drift in the northeastern portion of Iowa (and to a certain extent it may apply to Floyd County as well), W. J. McGee, of the Unitrd States Geological Survey—and one of the leading geologists in this country—says:—"An element of the glacial drift generally throughout the entire basin, which is almost insignificant in volume but sometimes important in value, is triturated gold. "This element occurs in Iowa, as elsewhere, commonly in exceedingly small quantity; but there is a considerable area in which the local conditions of deposition of the upper till have led to such concentration that it may prove of economic value. It has already been noted that the head waters of the Volga rise in an elongated basin, trending in the general direction of stream flow and drained through waterways at first flowing in opposite directions, but later uniting in the lowest part of the basin a few miles west of Fayette, and thence finding their way through a narrow gorge in the northeastern rim of the basin and so beyond the Niagara escarpment into the Turkey. "Now this basin is a magnified similitude of the miners pan, or rather the prospectors horn, and when the debris from the slightly auriferous crystalline rocks of the northwest was partly pushed and partly washed into and through the basin, the heavier gold was caught in its lower portion, and there remains to lure if not to reward the prospector. About Brush Creek gold has been frequently found in such quantity that mining fevers have frequently broken out. In one case an experienced miner is reliably reported to have realized a dollar per day for some months in extracting the shining dust with a small rocker and with inadequate water supply. About Fayette, at Maynard, and everywhere in the northeastern part of the basin, indeed, more or less gold has been found, and even in the gap cut by the Volga in the basin rim, at Wadena, gold has been obtained in nearly paying quantities."

"Breathing" Well.

During the winter of 1894, a well was drilled on the Gustoffson farm, about three and a half or four miles northeast from Rockford. The sight was on a level area near the house. The drill passed through the drift and into the underlying rock; and at a depth of about 120 feet, water was obtained. But a heavier volume being desired, drilling was still continued for a short distance, when, all at once, the drill dropped into a considerable fissure in the rock and the water at once all disappeared; and at the same time a quite loud rushing round was heard in the well, accompanied by a strange draft of air issuing from the drill hole, and continuing for some time.

All further efforts to obtain water here was fruitless, and the well had to be abandoned. After this, whenever the wind happened to be in a southeast direction, a strong draft of air, accompanied by a rushing sound, would invariably issue from this drill hole, but would cease when the wind changed to another quarter.

About one-half mile to the southeast from this well, and situated at a somewhat lower level, is a quite large and deep, circular sinkhole. At the bottom of this is a cavernous opening in the limestone, representing an enlarged fissure in the rock, which has a northwesterly and southeasterly trend. During spring freshets, and times of heavy rains, this sinkhole drains off a considerable amount of water; and it is so situated, that when empty, a southeast wind might blow into it, and if an opening existed at the other end of the crevice, a strong draft through it might be formed. Without doubt, in sinking the well on the Gustoffson farm, the drill penetrated this fissure, allowing the water from the well to escape through it, and also permiting a draft between it and the sinkhole mentioned.

In this same region are numerous other sinkholes. The development of this "breathing" well, created much interest among the people, and many vis-

ited it. About ten rods from the first well, a second well was drilled down to a depth of about 100 feet, where an abundant supply of good pure water was obtained.

Glacial Planing and Striation.

In only two limited localities in northern Iowa is undoubted glacial planing and striation of the underlying rock surface yet known to exist. The first is over a very small area in the extreme northwest corner of the state where, according to Keyes, the direction of the striæ is S 54 degrees E. During the fall of 1897 while workmen were stripping the drift from quite an extensive surface of Devonian rock at the Allison quarry on the south side of the Cedar River at Charles City, the rock surface was seen to have been planed and smoothed in a most interesting manner by ice action. Only certain areas, however, which had been more thoroughly protected by the drift mantle above, still preserved the polished surface, grooves and scratches.

Before we could take exact bearings of these grooves and striations, workmen had removed those portions which still retained them, so the records we were able to secure may be considered only as very approximate. Only one set of grooves and striæ were observed; and they had a direction about S 41 degrees E; which corresponds to the general trend of the valley of the stream. At this place, also, numerous potholes of small to medium size, were observed; and were usually filled by a hard blackish brown iron-stained clay. These new discoveries have an important scientific bearing. Throughout the drift in this portion of the state occur many boulders, in size small to medium, of sioux quartzite, which have been transported from the northwestern portion of Iowa and the southwestern portion of Minnesota.

In these pages we have given only a brief outline of the Geological History of Floyd County—and without which the historic records of a region must ever remain incomplete.

The ending of this history brings us down to a period near or to our own time, 'though yet beginning long prior to the advent of the first white pioneer settler here

Botanical History of Floyd County.

IT is with feelings of sadness that a lover of nature observes the ravages which development has been making upon the flora of this portion of our state since the earliest pioneer days. The time is not far distant—in fact, within the memory of the older pioneers who still linger with us—when this portion of Iowa was almost a trackless wilderness, and many of them can well recall the beauties of those vast prairies and primeval forests along the streams, each differing from the other, and yet in its own particular way, most lovely.

This region, back in the fifties, contained vast prairies but they, like the early fauna and flora, have become a thing of the past, for

"Man in his haste for selfish gain
Mars nature's garb with ruthless hand."

But it is well for us to go back to those early years again and gather up the facts relating to that old primeval flora before they are irreparably lost, and preserve them to those who may come later upon this varying scene of action and development. It is not so much the number of kinds of plants as it is the number of individuals of the more prominent kinds, which determines the character of the surface features of the country. Accordingly, with a land scape, with apparent richness of vegetation, may yield only a meager harvest to the botanist. On the other hand, however, because of the great number of certain species, very many of the rarer forms are overlooked by the casual observer. Floyd county is a case in point. The number of species of native plants here is very large; while the individuals of certain species greatly predominate over all others, thus leading to eroneous conclusions regarding the flora by some.

The oaks are the most abundant and conspicuous trees of the forest, and yet there are but four kinds. The evergreen, or cone-bearing trees, which are usually very prominent in many regions, are wholly absent, with the exception of some forlorn individuals of red cedar found along the river banks.

There is an occasional tree of honey-locust, but no birch, buckeye, "white-wood," coffee tree or sassafras, such as we meet with in many other regions in this latitude. The following trees occur in greater or less abundance: Black walnut, butternut, cottonwood, basswood, hackberry, horn beam, hard and soft maple, white and black ash, three kinds of elm, hickory (butternut), "shack bark hickory," two species of poplar, red cedar and box elder.

Of the smaller trees there are the black cherry, choke cherry, "green ash," elder, sumac, several species of willow, black haw, two kinds of thornapple, several varieties of plum, crab apple, hazlenut, prickly ash and a few others.

The oaks occurring in the county are the white, bur, "scarlet" or jack, and red, of which the last is least common. These are the most numerous of our forest trees, taken as a whole. The "jack" oaks almost invariably retain their leaves until spring, and so greatly relieve the barrenness of the woods in winter. An interesting feature, and one well remembered by every early settler of this region, is the "oak openings" seen at various places in earlier, and even later, times. Only the white and bur oaks seem capable of enduring the encroachments of civilization; or the near abode of man, as very many of them are dying out. Some of the most conspicuous and well-known landmarks in the county in early days was the old oaks, and known and recognized as such by the Indians and the whites as well. Forming little oasis, as it were, in the boundless prairies of this region, an occasional oak-opening, or even single and solitary trees would occur, which had long bid defiance to the storms and the prairie fires which annually swept over the county.

One case in point we remember well. It was an old jack oak, tall, symmetrical and most beautifully formed, having three large bodies. It stood solitary and alone, save for a few small poplars and hazlebrush, out on the edge of the prairie. It was, too, near the early farm-home of the writer—not far from Rockford,—that this beautiful tree stood. In its solitude it had grown stately and strong, for the fierce storms of winter and the scorching heat of summer had seemed only to add to its beauty and its strength. For miles around it could be seen and was known by the Indians and the early settlers alike as the most conspicuous landmark of the region. But finally it was cut down and destroyed, and this by one whose importance in the world was, if it may be said, far less than that of that old tree.

The red, white and "rock" elms, are abundant, the last, (ulmus sacemora), furnishes the best fuel—although none the best—and is also quite highly prized as a shade tree. When the leaves have fallen it looks somewhat like the bur oak, and very unlike its near relative, the graceful white elm These trees invariably occur on the lower and more moist lands along the streams; and not infrequently attain a very large size. The black walnut formerly occurred in considerable abundance among the heavy timber along some portions of the streams; but is now a comparatively rare species, and met with only as rather small trees. The value of its wood for many important purposes has proven its destruction. When the county was first settled this species was abundant here, and because of the great size of many of the trees, it was especially sought after for "saw logs," and worked up into lumber at the primitive sawmills and used for all purposes the pioneer found to employ rough lumber for, now, but very little is obtained, and this brings a high price. The wanton destruction of this specie here in early days is now deeply deplored. This tree, however, is now in many places in our county, being planted and cultivated.

The cottonwood, (populus monilifera), is very rare in the wild state, though extensively planted for shelter and fuel throughout this portion of the state. The cotton from the seeds often prove a source of much annoyance to the tidy housekeeper. If only male trees, those with reddish tassels, were planted, no cotton would be produced, and so this source of annoyance be eliminated. Both kinds of tassels, the green and the red, appear in the spring before the leaves came out. It was along in the later sixties that the cottonwood, "lombardy poplar" and "balm gillard," were first introduced into this county, to any extent, as shade and "grove" trees. The two latter were of quick growth, but rather short-lived; while the former has stood the test well as a shade tree. All three species were introduced and set out as "cuttings," and have grown well.

The soft maple, has long been established here as, in some respects, one of our prettiest and best shade trees, although not so hardy or long-lifed as some The wood is white and soft and quick of growth, and the trees produce an abundance of delightful shade. It is propogated from the seed, large quantities of which are annually gathered—though not so much now as formerly—and shipped to the Dakotas and Nebraska, to be planted on those vast treeless prairies as wind brakes, and groves on the tree-claims The hard or sugar maple, is one of the best hardy shade trees we have. It's leaves come out early in the season and continue until quite late in the fall, or as long as shade is appreciated. We have but few trees that grow more symmetrically or that have more ornamental leaves, especially in the fall of the year when the leaves turn to a golden yellow. The wood of the hard maple is the very best of our hard wood timbers for fuel. Its wood can also be used for many kinds of furniture, and makes splendid floors in dwellings. Were it not for the high price and scarcity, it would be much more used for railroad cars and ornamental furniture. It is one of the best woods we have for mechanical purposes where ornament, polish and solidity are required. The sugar-producing quality of our hard maple is superior to any other of which I personally have any knowledge. There are some varieties of maple that will produce more sap, but their sugar or syrup is inferior to the hard maple sugar or molasses.

Horn beam, or iron wood, is a tree quite common with us in various places. It occurs mostly in scattered clusters along our streams, and is for the most part a small tree. The wood is very compact and hard and extremely durable. It is a slow grower but quite long lived. It never attains a sufficient size to be of any value save for fuel.

Two kinds of poplar are abundant with us in this county, and resemble each other so much that many persons who have known them all their lives consider them one and the same specie. They both form good sized trees. In the spring they, with the willows, are always the first to put forth their leaves, and because of this are much noticed and admired While they are the first to put forth their leaves in the springtime their leaves are also the first to fall as the frosty nights of autumn approach.

The black willow with us grows to a tree from ten to thirty feet in height, and is invariably found bordering the streams and ponds. It's wood is light and soft and possesses but little value except for wood, although quite extensively used at times by early settlers for other purposes. All the other willows are shrubs, and occur in low and moist places. Perhaps one of the best known and remembered of these is the "pussey willow," seen so commonly growing in moist places on the prairies

The red cedar (Juniperus virginiana) occurs in this county only at infrequent intervals along some of the main streams, and in a few isolated cases, adjacent to them. This is the only native specie of "evergreen" occurring in this county, and here never attains the dignity of a large, well developed tree. It is seldom, if ever, found where its roots cannot penetrate well into the limetone; and this fact doubtless accounts for its gnarled and dwarfed condition.

Two species of hickory occurs in considerable abundance in our woods and are among some of our most important trees. The common, or "bitternut", hickory is by far the most abundant, although does not usually attain the dimensions of a large tree. It's wood is light colored, hard and compact, but tough and elastic, and because of these qualities is much sought after for purposes where these qualities are demanded. In the manufacture of carriages, wagons and farm machinery it is much used. For fuel it is difficult to be surpassed, The "shell bark" or "shack bark" hickory, is abundant with us in places, but by no means so common as the preceding species. It usually attains to a greater size than the common variety, though the quality of its wood is about the same.

The butternut is another species that occurs with us in considerable abundance, in its own chosen localities—associating with the black walnut, hickories and basswoods. It is a rapid grower. and often attains to a large size. Its wood is soft and light, and possessed of a rather dark and pine color, and is quite highly prized for some purposes as ornamental and other uses It is not so long lived as many other trees.

Basswood is another of our common forest trees, but is more restricted in its range than many other trees. It is able to, as a rule, only adapt itself to the richer and more moist lands along the streams. It often attains to a very large size and height, and is in many ways a most interesting tree. Its sap is abundant and sweet, and its flowers so fragrant that in the springtime the woods are filled with their delightful odor. The bees, and other insect-lovers of sweets, find this also a most delightful tree. The wood is white and soft, and the tree of very rapid growth.

The native variety of our hackberry (celtis accidentalis var crossifolia) is not very common in our timber belts, and is still less common as a cultivated tree. For some reason but few people seem to know the name of this species—but this perhaps may be due to its rarity. It occurs on the rich, moist lands along our river bottoms, and grows to a large size, and is of beautiful form. As a timber tree it has no great value, but as a street and shade tree it has no superior, save perhaps in our hard maples. Its berries are small and of a rich brown color, and wonderfully sweet.

The box elder is a tree possessing considerable as a street and shade tree, and is quite extensively planted as such in this county. It is mainly propagated from the seed; large quantities of which have from time been gathered here and shiped to the Dakota's and Nebraska, and planted as wind-brakes and groves. It is a very hardy tree, and of good form, and has a pretty foliage. It occurs native with us only in places along the banks of streams and on lowlands bordering the water ways.

The wild black cherry occurs in considerable abundance in this county, and is in fact one of our most valuable trees for lumber. It is hardy and grows to a good size, and occurs only on rich, dry soils associated with other of our forest trees. The opinion of experts now is that within the next twenty years the cherry lumber will command a better price than the black walnut for use in furniture making, physical apparatus, etc.

The wild red cherry is also common with us, and is sometimes known as pigeon cherry. This tree is found across the continent at the north, and is found as far north as Great Bear lake. For furniture and ornamental work it is quite as valuable as the black cherry, but the relative small size is against it as a timber tree.

Our Wild Nut-bearing Trees.

As yet the importance of our indigenous nut-bearing trees are not fully realized, though the time, doubtless, is not far distant when their great value in this respect will be fully appreciated and recognized.

Those kinds of value accruing in Floyd county are the black walnut, bitter nut, hickory, shell bark hickory and the hazlenut. All others, save the common hichory nut, produce valuable nuts, having rich and excellent sweet meats. Our black walnut is very thick shelled, but doubtless by proper hybridizing a rich and more valuable, thin-shelled nut might be produced. The butternut is closely allied to the walnut, and in Europe hybrids between the two species is said to exist, and in Iowa it is told that what appears to be a perfect mingling of the two species in tree and nut occurs. This tree, in a state of nature, is quite variable in size and quality of nut, and much improvement may be expected by constant selections of the best varieties.

Our shell-bark hickory nuts in in their wild state have rather thick shells, although it is pretty well understood that by proper selection and cultivation, a larger, richer flavored and thinner shelled nut can be obtained.

Our common hickory nut, often called "bitter nut," certainly needs, and is capable of, improvement; as because of its rather bitter taste but few like them.

The native hazlenut offers a wide and profitable field in nut culture, and it seems strange that our people have not l[ere] ere this embraced this rich to reap profitable harves[t] our markets by gatheri[ng] planting the largest, th[e]

sweet-meated nuts, found where nature has placed them as a guide to point out the way for us to go to work and improve this exceliant nut fruit which has for centuries bid defiance to frosts and blizzards. So we need not fear to cultivate and improve these nut-bearing bushes, for they are children of the land, "survival of the fittest," they will neither frost, sun-kill, scald or blight.

The hazle nut is very abundant with us, and formally formed sort of a skirmish line between our forests and the prairie fires that used to be so very common. Some of these wild nuts are equal in size and flavor to the fllbert.

Native Fruits.

In the early days the wild fruits which occurred here, such as the plum, crab-apple. raspberry, strawberry and blackberry, filled a very important place with the settlers, and often supplied the home market with much of its fruit. The elderberry, blackhaws, yellow and red thornapple, mandrake, black nightshade and wild grapes and spichnoid berries, also was prized, although not so extensively used as the other kinds of fruit. But few today can realize the important place the wild fruits occupied with the pioneer; who was to a great extent deprived of all other kinds

There were many varieties of wild plums, some being large, delicious and of most beautiful appearance, while others were hard, knotty and of very inferior quality. No "imported tame plums" can today surpass some of the wild varieties in either beauty or flavor. The trees almost always occur in thickets, or clumps, and one scarcely ever found here among the larger or heavier timber. They usually assume a height of ten to fifteen feet. Today, and in fact for many years past, a great interest has been taken in our wild plums by our horticulturists and fruit growers, until now we have more than one hundred and fifty greatly improved varieties.

Regarding our native varieties, Professor Bud, of the Iowa State Agricultural College, says: "To show the real status as market fruits, I will say that during the Columbian exposition three Germans visited the Iowa Agricultural College. On my office table we had a box of Keith plums, a box of Maquoketa, and a box of Wyant. By their side were placed small boxes of several California plums from the groceries. After testing all the samples, their praise of our sorts was unbounded, and they at once made arrangements to secure scions with a view of introduction in Germany.

The best varieties of wild plums we now possess will mainly capture the markets of the west, when we have growers in a commercial way who handle the fruit in a methodic manner. All this has been the outgrowth of mere selection and testing of our best native sorts from the thickets in a very brief period. No country of the temperate zone has been blessed by Dame Nature with plums of such size and quality," One of the oldest and most extended commercial plum growers of the east, J. W. Kers of Denton, Maryland, recently said:— "Since 1882 I have devoted special attention to what are popularly termed native plums, starting with the Wild Goose, supplemented by Newman, Mareman, and one or two others. I have drifted along until my orchards comprise over one hundred and fifty varieties.

I have lately confined myself mostly to the native because those of European origin were unprofitable and unsatisfactory in nearly all respects, and I am in the fruit business for revenue as well as education and health." After naming many varieties, he further states:— "I have not named a native that has not proven more profitable as a market plum one year with another than any European or Japanese variety."

The wild gooseberry has always been abundant with us, and represents at least three species, among them the prickly gooseberry. They invariable occur in patches in dense woods and other places along our streams. They produce a fruit highly esteemed, and possess a flavor superior to our so-called tame varieties. By the pioneer and early settlers of the county they were gathered in large quantities, and many of them dried and preserved for future use.

The black cherry is a delicious fruit, though like the red cherry, capable of improvement by cultivation, selection, and cross fertalization. The chokecherry is an abundant species in various portions of the county, but not made much use of, and, it being a shruby tree, has little economic value.

A fine variety of blackhaw occurs quite abundantly in places, and is gregaceous in its habits. It produces a rather large, blue, blackberry which has a fine, sweet flavor. Some of our fruit growers seeing the possibilities of this species have undertaken to cultivate and improve it.

The common elder occur abundantly in dense thickets at intervals on the rich soils bordering some of the larger streams. This shrub bears large quantities of very sweet, juicy berries, which are highly prized by many for making wine, and for various cullinary purposes. It is a very quick grower, and well adapted to rich, moist soils almost anywhere here, and doubtless might be made a quite valuable addition to our list of fruits.

The native red and black raspberry occurs quite abundantly with us, and are much esteemed.

The blackberry is a native of our woods, and quite often occurs associated with the above; but is by no means so abundant. The berry is of good size and flavor.

The yellow and red thorn apple is abundant in many portions of the county, and is a very prolific bearer. The quality of its fruit varies considerably, but is often large and thick-fleshed. This fruit when properly prepared and made into "jell," approaches so nearly to strained honey in color and flavor, as to deceive many.

In some respects the wild crab apple was one of the best and most favorably known fruits known to the early settler. Its habitat was the same as that of the wild plum, with which it was usually associated. Every fall the settlers would lay in a supply of this fruit for winter use. The perfume of its blossoms in the springtime was most beautiful.

The wild grape is another of our indigenous wild fruits and has always been much used by our people here. There are several varieties. The fruit varies considerable in both size and quality, and is certainly capable of great improvement, and has many things in its favor to commend it. It occurs almost wholly in our rich woods adjoining, and the vine often attains to a great size.

Much might be said regarding another of our wild fruits, the mandrake, or "may apple," which occurs in patches in various places in the woods along our streams. The fruit attains a good size and is of a fine quality. The root of the plant also possesses madicinal qualities of great value also, as does also those of many other kinds found occurring with us; but which neither time or space permits us to mention.

The wild strawberry is one of the most delicious wild fruits known to us, and so intimately associated with some of the most interesting events of the pioneer history of the county, as to prevent our passing it by unnoticed. In the early days of the settlement of this region this fruit occurred in the greatest profusion, and when ripe filled the air around with its sweet perfume. There were many varieties: some being large and fine, others small. It was always observed that the smaller varities possessed much the finest flavor. The great improvement which selection and cultivation has done for this fruit, is too well known to need mentioning here. But to those who are familiar with most of the wild varieties, it is needless to state that in flavor they are yet much suporior to any of the cultivated varieties. This fruit, and the early days spent gathering it by the early settlers, will again be alluded to.

Still another fruit worthy of mention, and one much used in early days by some of the settlers, was the black nightshade (salanum nigrum). To the writer it is, perhaps, one of the best remembered. This plant grew most abundantly on new braking and among the corn, and was extremely prolific. The berries are blue-black in color, small and round, and hang in "clusters." They bear until the frost kills them in the fall. This plant is large and spreading and in general form somewhat resembles the "tumble weed," which in the fall of the year went rolling and tumbling over the prairie. A great many people believe the nightshade to be a deadly poison, and even Gray in his manual of botany states: "It is a homely weed, said to be poisonous." There is nothing poisonous about this plant, as the writer and his people have gathered its fruit by the bushel and eaten it in various ways. This fruit has a peculiar flavor and consequently might not be relished by some.

Of the plants and barks possessing madicinal value occurring in this county, there are many; and, although not generally known, the gathering of these has proven quite a source of revenue to those engaged in the enterprise. Among some of these plants may be mentioned, sweet flag, snake root, blood root, pond lily, mandrake, wild turnip, spicknard, ginsang, smart weed, spearmint, "horsemint," "balm," and many others. Among the barks gathered, are slippery elm, oak, black cherry, poplar, prickley ash, etc., etc.

During the pioneer days, before many of our modern dyes were known, the bark of the bur oak and white oak, sumac berries, were considered the "stand-byes" by many for coloring cotton and some other goods; and well did they answer the purpose.

During the early pioneer days of

the country, this county was mainly a broad rolling prairie, which was almost everywhere covered by a rank, waving field of coarse bluejoint grass. On the uplands this grew somewhat less rank, and the sloughs—and they were many—were filled by a still coarser and even taller grass. At the time of full growth, a rider on horseback would not as a rule be noticed a short distance away, so luxurient was the herbage everywhere. This great, unbroken, beautiful solitude, stretched away and away, and seemed to meet the sky on the distant horizon. At certain seasons of the year, these vast, primeval prairies were indeed a paradise of beauty. Occupying their own chosen places in this land—some on the high and more rolling ground and others in the wet places—were the many bright wild flowers the settlers learned to recognize and know so well. Among some of the most showy and bright ones were the large and brilliant scarlet lilies of the prairies, the beautiful spotted tiger lilies, the lady-slippers of the lowlands, the wild flags, and wonderfully bright and beautiful scarlet and blue "eyebrights," and the "cotton plants" of the sloughs. On the uplands, too, were untold myriads of the fragrant prairie pinks, violets and buttercups, golden rods and asters; all revelling in their own wild beauty, but "unknown and unsung," save by the few scattered vanguards of civilization who, too, had made their homes among them on the prairies.

On the prairies, also, was seen the strange, coarse plant known to everyone as the "campass plant," the edges of whose large serrate leaves ever turned to the north and south, forming an unerring guide to the traveler who might chance to loose his way on the prairies.

Another plant seen on the higher prairies and ever noticed because of its strangeness, was that peculiar and lone wanderer from the tropics—the only one ever known to stray away from its home in the sunny south to this northern latitude—and commonly known to the pioneer as the "rattle snake poison." And the wild roses, too, whose rich perfume ladened the air, and whose beautiful colors made bright the scenes around, can never be forgotten by those who saw them.

The wild grasses also are represented, although the bluejoint was, perhaps, the most noticeable. Wild rice (Zizonia aquatica) was originally abundant in the Cedar river near Charles City. Porcupine or spear grass the (Stipa sparta) is curious on account of the barbed "spears," an ingenious device apparently for burying the seeds in the ground. It is now rare, though formerly very abundant. The vanilla grass, (Hiesachloa borealis) was formerly abundant. A number of ornamental grasses of considerable excellence should be mentioned, such as wild chess or (Bromus palmii). Squirrel-tail grass or (Hordeum jubatum), and wild rye, three species are met with, though, like nearly all the wild plants, are now relatively scarce.

Although most of the wild plants of the county are now relatively few, yet a careful study of its botany will reveal that but very few of them have become entirely extinct here; many of them still may be found shrinking away from the encroachments of civilization into out-of-the-way places and the untrodden corners.

The sedges are not so abundant as formerly, or as found elsewhere. Those found in the few prairie sloughs yet remaining, are known as "wire grass." The other kinds, except the rushes, are popularly confounded with grasses. None of them are of much economic interest. But few members of the Orchis family are native of this county. The showy orchis was not uncommon in shady woods. A white western orchis is the only Habenasia. It is H. leucophaea, and grows about prairie sloughs. Calopogan has been gathered in this county. The large, showy, the large, yellow, the small yellow, and the small white lady-slippers were formerly common, but now seldom ever seen.

Carposporeae, or mushrooms and their allies, are very abundant with us.

The mildews infest the hop—the latter plant is native with us—gooseberry, cherry, elm, willow, grapevine, honeysuckle, and a great many other plants. The rusts are important, and are more or less abundant. The wheat rust is a good example. Smuts are a numerous family, and attack the flowers and seeds, and often other parts of various plants, as wheat, rye, oats, corn, etc. The cup-fungus, or Peziza, in its various species, grows in woods. Some kinds attract attention by the bright scarlet lining of the cups. An edible fungus belongs to this family that deserves to be generally better known. It is the morel, or botanically, (Morchella erculenta) and is common in woodlands throughout the county. It grows from three to five inches high, is of a gray or pale brown color, has a thick stalk, and a cylindrical top with large, shallow pits on its surface. The stalk and top are hollow. Its appearance is so characteristic that no other fungus at present known to me is likely to be confounded with it. It forms a most delicious and savery dish for the table when prepared properly. Mushrooms and their immediate allies, the toadstools, puffballs, "stinkhorns," earth stars, etc. aggregate a vast number of species. Many of them are edible, and others are poisonous, and special care should be exercised in distinguishing between the desirable and the harmful ones.

A number of species of mosses and liverworts, occur within the county, and a study of them is of much interest. Something less than a dozen kinds of ferns are known to me to occur within the county, and they belong to widely distributed species. The wolf berry and yellow and red honeysuckle occurring here, are so attractive as to be cultivated.

An interesting relative of the bean grows upon rocky or gravelly soil. The branches are prostrate and spread about a foot around the root. The purple flowers appear in May, and are soon followed by the fruit. When the pod, which is nearly solid, have reached the size of hazlenuts, they prove a valuable addition to the list of early vegetables. Cooked like green peas, they make a pleasing dish intermediate in taste and flavor between early peas and asparagus.

Virginia creepers and climbing bitter sweet occur in our woods, and present features of special attraction. The wild cucumber is also a favorite climbing plant.

The cat-tail-flag is a plant that in earlier days occurred abundantly in this county; but now is seen only occasionally. But as it is a so well known plant, a few facts regarding its many useful qualities may not be out of place here. Very few people probably are aware that the fur or vegetable down, of the cat-tail is a remarkable article, superior to feathers or cotton for many purposes. It is not quite so valuable or useful as eider down, but it approaches it very closely, and is cheaper than any of the three. As a matter of fact, a great many people are to day using articles covered with cat-tail products, who have no idea where the material comes from. This material is extensively gathered and manufactured into many useful articles, and the weaving of it into the many forms it must take before it becomes saleable, constitutes a considerable industry. One of the most elaborate uses to which this material is put is that of covering sofas. Very many of the supposed plush-covered divans are really covered by a fabric of cat-tail. It wears better than the plush, and is infinitely cheaper. Sofa pillows, also, are made of cat-tail. The same argument that applies to the sofa is applicable to the pillow. Very often however, such pillows go by another name, because a pillow avowedly covered with cat tail would probably be regarded with contempt.

Cow bane, or "wild parsnip," as it is more commonly called here, is a plant all should become familiar with, and know. Every now and then, there are accounts of poisoning from "wild parsnips" in our papers. This subject is of considerable interest, and especially so because the plant is widely distributed in this county and throughout the state, and a large number of people are not aware of the poisonous nature of the root.

This plant (Cicuta maculata) is a deadly poison, and it effects man, cattle and horses, and by it several people in this county have met death. It is a smooth march perennial 2.5 feet high with pinnately compound leaves, 2.5 times pinnate; the leaves have long petioles, the coarsely serrate leaflets are lanceolate to oblong lanceolate 1-5 in. long. Stalk of the umbellets numerous and unequal. Flowers white. Grows in marshes and in low ground. The stems spring from thick fleshy underground roots that tapes at the lower end. These usually number from three to five, but single specimens are also met with. On cutting the roots a sharp pungent odor is given off, intensified on boiling. This root is pleasant to the taste, and is very often mistaken for artichokes. Every year the papers contain accounts of fatal poisoning, both of human beings and cattle, and for this reason it is highly desireable that information may be diffused respecting this and oth-

er poisonous and deleterious plants, so that such accidents may be avoided.

Another poisonous plant altogether too abundant here, and well known to every country boy by experience, is the poison ivy. It is found in all situations. On the prairies, especially on gopher knolls, it rarely grows more than a foot or so high, yet flowers and fruits freely. It frequently mixes with hazlebushes and in some respects assumes somewhat the same habits. It is distinguished under all disguises by its three smooth dark green leaflets.

In the limited space available here, it is impossible to more than give a very general outline of the Botanical history of Floyd County—a subject of the greatest value and interst, and one, in order to do it justice, would require at least a volume. Very many species occurring in the county we have here been unable to even allude to

The Love of Trees and Flowers.

A love of plants, trees and flowers is a love of the beautiful is a love of the good, and a love of good leads to doing good and being good. It is an invariable law of our natures, physical, moral and spiritual, and we grow into the likeness of our thoughts companions, surroundings and occupations.

In the study of the "green things of earth," we have the most efficient teachers. Silent they are, but most impressive, as has been said by another, "We behold in the living, green things of earth, beauty without vanity, homage without pride, strength without roughness, voiceless yet most eloquent." Nothing has greater power to stir the fount of feeling and awaken pure and holy thoughts and worthy purposes, than a love of the growing trees and flowers.

He who taught as never man taught, drew his incomparable lessons from nature, from the pruning of the vine, the sowing of seeds, the fruitless tree,

Pleasant Memories of Trees.

The memory of the pioneer runs back to the time when there were no trees on the vast prairies of this portion of Iowa, except the narrow belts on the rivers and creeks, and the occasional issolated prairie groves like islands dotting this great expanse. It was a common thing to travel all day between groves without finding a camping place with timber and water.

How is it today? Our prairies are all dotted over with groves of trees as monuments to the memory of the hardy pioneers of Iowa who came to this new region to make a home for themselves and their children. Where are they today? Many of them have gone to eat of the fruits of the Tree of life "which bear twelve manner of fruits and yield its fruit every month." But they have left these enduring monuments to their memory. To those who still linger with us, the thoughts of the trees, when they first come to this then wild land, will ever be treasured as a sweet memory. The trees and the woods then were often most beautiful, especially in the springtime when the beautiful flowers and the sweet fragrance of the bloom of the wild crab apple, the cherry and the plum, filled the air and made fragrant the air around. This beautiful sight—barred forever from this latter day civilization—was a joyous delight to the early settlers of those bygone years.

Entomological History of Floyd County.

ALL insects play a most important part in the great economy of nature. The average townsman, whose knowledge of them is confined to certain lectual household pests, can scarcely appreciate the fact or have any other feeling than repugnance and contempt for the annoying hexapods of his acquaintance; and a feeling that the student of this branch of science is a fanatic and a prodigal of time. Yet as scavengers, as pollenizers of our flowers and friuts, or as food for other animals, they not only vitally concern man, but, philosophically considered, are seen to be essential to his very existance. Also the direct benefits we receive from insects are by no means small. They supply us with the sweetest of sweets, our finest dyes and inks, and our most valuable robes and tapers, to say nothing of various waxes, acids, etc; while very few who have not studied the subject have any just conceptions of the importance of insects and their products as articles of human diet. But the benefits, whether direct or indirect, which man derives from insects, must always appear trifling compared to the injury they inflict on our agriculture. In connection with the fact that civilized man has, by his methods of agriculture, which is essentially the cultivation, in large tracts, of one species of plant to the exclusion of others, and which give exceptional facilities for the multiplication of such insects as naturally feed on such plants; additional species injurious to vegetation, have unwittingly been imported from other countries. Insects probably outnumber in species all other animals combined, more than 700,000 species being at present known. The losses occasioned by insects injurious to agriculture in the United States alone, are, in the aggregate, enormous, and have been estimated at from $300,000,000 to $400,000,000 annually.

It is the aim of the economic entomologist to prevent as much of this loss as possible. To do so effectually, the chief knowledge required is of an entomological nature, viz, the full life history and habits of the different species of insects, as well as a knowledge of the habits of birds and the nature and development of minute parasitic organisms, such as fungi. By means of this we learn which species are beneficial and which are injurious; and the ability to distinguish between friend and foe is of the first importance in coping with the latter, for it is a notorious fact that the farmer often does more harm than good by destroying his friends in his blind effort to save his crops. From the foregoing, the importance to the public of a thorough knowledge of insect life, is, we think, made apparent.

There occurs in this county a vast number of insect species—many of them beneficial, and others injurious, but to only a very few will we here have space to refer.

Perhaps of the best known insects to those residing in towns having electric lighting, is the large "fierce looking" brown insect generally called "electric light bug." This is really a nocternal, water insect, and is quite poisonous, and should be more carefully handled than it often is. One of the richest fields for the entomologists, is around the electric lights at night, when insects are around. Here many species may be captured whose presence in the region, perhaps, had not been suspected. A beautiful yellow banded beetle occurs with us in considerable numbers, and does some damage to the hickories. The former should know his true insect friends as well as his foes. There is a large family of ground beetles with us which prey on those insects largely injurious to crops. These beetles are dark colored, brown or black, with metalic hues, and are seen in spring and throughout the summer, running in grass, or lurking under stones and sticks in damp places, whence they rally forth to hunt by night, when many vegetable-eating insects are most active.

The larvæ are found in much the same situation as the mature beetles. Two of these beetles, of great importance to the gardner and farmer is Calosoma calidum and C. serutator. The former is a large black beetle with the wing covers ornamented with numerous golden dots.

A much smaller form is the curious Bombardies beetle, (Brachinus fumans) with its narrow head and heart-shaped prothorax. It is often found under sticks and stones, and in one instance I found as many as twenty-five or thirty under one stone. This species is often gregareous in its habits, and is remarkable for discharging with quite an explosion from the end of its body a pungent fluid, probably as a protection against its enemies. One allied genius is Casnonia; one representative at least of which occurs with us, and is C. pensylvanica. This forn has a long neck and spotted wing covers.

Another large form commonly called "Roach," is Pangus caliginorus, and is not infrequently seen, is black with deep, longitudinal, parallel grooves on the wing covers. Still another common species is Agonum cupripenne. This is a smaller and prettier insect than the one last mentioned; and is greenish, with purplish-red wing covers, and black legs.

Among the multitude of beetles injurious to the crops, may be mentioned the May beetle. This is the great sluggish coleoptera that, during the early summer evenings, so often fly around and into our rooms, with such a loud hum; and not infrequently striking one in the face. The larvæ is a large white grub found in rich soils and other similar places, and is injurious to the roots of grasses, strawberry vines, etc.

A large repulsive insect very often found on hazle brush, oaks, etc, in our pastures, is the walking stick or "hay rack," Diapheromera femorata. This insect mimics to a remarkable degree, the twigs and small limbs, upon which they mostly dwell. Some insects belonging to this order find their most congenial home in tne tropics, where some of the species attain to over a foot in length, exclusive of the legs. The insect as it occurs with us, changes very little in appearance from birth to maturity except so far as color is concerned, and molts but twice. Growth is rapid, averaging under favorable circumstances about six weeks from birth to maturity. With age the green color gives way to various shades of gray and brown. In this way we find great correspondence with its surroundings.

The katydid is an interesting form and one well known to every lover of nature, and so well remembered no further reference is necessrry here. What is said of the katydid, is also equally applicable to the common "cricket," which during the sultry evenings in the fall, make the nights musical with their "song."

The tree cricket also is with us, as is also the Hessian fly, Potato beetle, Squash bug, Lady bug, cabbage worm and butterfly, several weevels, the May fly and the mosquito. At twilight the Hawk moth (Spinx) darts noiselessly through our gardens, as soon as the pinks, lilies and petunias are in blossom. And it would indeed be a pleasure to every gardner and farmer could they say their only knowledge of the cut worm and moth, was gathered from books. "Sphinx5–moculata, is a resident here, although it does not occur in large numbers. Often during summer evenings the strange and peculiar fire flies or "lightningbugs" may be seen by the thousands flitting hither and thither over the low, moist places, and present a wonderfully interesting sight.

Of the water insects we have a goodly number; among them the Serris plaudum, which is commonly seen running over the surface of streams and pools, and the singular Raratra fusca. This insect is light brown in color, with a long respiratory tube which it raises above the surface of the water when it wishes to breathe. This species connects the water-boatman with the water-skates. We have several times observed R. fusca to be frozen solid in ice, and on throwing out to be as lively as ever.

During mid-summer the bees and wasps are numerous; and are now building their nests and rearing their young. The "bumble bees," late in June and the first of July, send out their first brood of workers, and about the middle of the month the second lot of eggs are laid, which produce the smaller-sized females and males, while eggs laid late in the month and early in August, produce the large sized queens, which soon hatch.

There are numerous kinds of most beautiful butterflies common to this region, the most abundant of which is the common red variety, Limenitis misippus. This is so well known as to need no description here. During the early fall, and after the first frosts, this pretty butterfly may often be seen in flocks of hundreds congregating on the south side of some hedgerow of willows, or other trees. There are also numerous species of moths, some of which are most beautiful. Crepidadera helxiner, is more or less plentiful, and feeds, at least to a certain extent, on the foliage of the poplar. In fact every tree and bush here, as elsewhere, has its insect foes, which are more or less injurious to them. The Cottonwood Dagger moth occurs with us, though it is not very common. The largest and by far the prettiest moth in this region is the silkworm moth; it is, however, not very common.

An interesting beetle sometimes met with, is Dicerca divaricata. Its wing covers are much elongated and spreading widely apart at the end; the insect copper-colored and thickly covered with little punctures.

The Bot flies are represented here by several species, but those afflicting horses and cattle are the forms most generally recognized. The belief existing among many that "bots frequently kill horses," is without foundation.

Were we to select from among the insects a type of all that is savage, relentless, and blood thirsty, the Dragon fly would be our choice. From the moment of its birth until its death, usually a twelve mouth, it riots in bloodshed and carnage. Living beneath the waters perhaps eleven months of its life, in the larva and puba states, it is literally a walking pitfall for luckless aquatic insects, but when transformed into a fly, ever on the wing in pursuit of its prey, it throws off all concealment and reveals more unbushingly its sapacious character. This insect is commonly know as the "Devils darning-needle." Could we understand the knowledge of insects, what tales of horor would be revealed! What traditions, scars, fables, and myths must adorn the annals of life regarding this Dragon among insects! Its gleaming wings are beautiful objects. They form a broad expanse of delicate parchment-like membrane drawn over an intricate network of veins. Though the body is bulky, it is yet light, and easily sustained by the wings. The long tail undoubtedly acts as a rudder to steady its flight. These insects are almost universally dressed in the gayest colors. The body is variously banded with rich shades of blue, green and yellow, and the wings give off the most beautiful isidescent and metalic reflection. The whole life of this insect is beneficent, as it is a true scavenger. In the water, it preys upon the young mosquitoes and the larva of other noxious insects. It thus aids in maintaing the balance of life, and cleans the swamps of miasmata, thus purifying the air we breathe. During its existence of three or four weeks above the water, its whole life is continued good to man. It hawks over pools and fields and through gardens, decimating swarms of mosquitoes, flies, gnats, and other baneful insects.

The Chinch Bug.

(Blissus cucooterus)

The extensive ravages of the chinch bug in Iowa in 1887, and which was unprecedented in the history of the state, has made it familiar to every farmer, and thus rendering a description of it here unnecessary. Suffice it to say, however, that another insect pest, called "False Chinch Bug," is common in Iowa and elsewhere, and is usually mistaken for the genuine article. Almost every year this insect does much damage to corn, etc, in this county.

According to the Iowa Crop report issued July 16, 1887, including reports from correspondents up to July 10, this insect had already become noticeable in three-fourths of the counties in the state, and its damage to the wheat crop had run into the millions of dollars. The final crop report of the season, however, showed that the damage to the crops, wheat, oats, barley and corn, exceeded twenty-five millions of dollars. An item by no means insignificant even when distributed among all the farmers of the state.

There is a general, but mischievous impression, among farmers of this state at least, that it is useless to contend against the chinch bug, and that its visitations must be received, like those of the drouth and the tornado, as evils beyond our power to prevent or remedy. This discouragement is, of course, not without its reasons, commonest, I think is the following: First, few are aware of the very considerable number of valuable remedies which have been carefully tried, here and there, with decisive or highly encouraging results. Second, failures of measures not intelligently applied, or applied under exceptional circumstances, have often led to conclusions that there was no value in them under any circumstances whatever.

Ornithology of Floyd County.

WHO has not, at the opening of springtime, when our cold and cheerless winter has passed, hailed with joy the return of the birds, and listened with raptuous delight to their beautiful notes at morn and at noon and at eventide?

All things fill their place and perform their part in the great economy of nature. The birds contribute no small part to the happiness of man, as weil as prove one of his most valuable friends in an economic point of view. As to the economic value of our birds, but few who have not studied the subject have any adequate conception. The service rendered by the birds in destroying great numbers of noxious insects, mammals and seeds of weeds about our houses, grounds and fields, is almost beyond estimate. Even the much despised—and often destroyed—and condemned hawks, crows and owls are, indeed, among the best friends of the agricultu-

rist. While it is true that some of our birds, under certain circumstances, prove somewhat injurious to fruits and grains, still, as a rule, the great service they render us in the preservation of our crops from destruction by their insect foes, more than compensates for the damage they inflict. When we consider the fact that "there are over 700,000 species of insects" alone, the great majority of which are injurious to vegetation, and that the birds are their natural enemies and one of nature's greatest means of holding them in check, we may, perhaps, dimly realize the great economic value of birds relative to man. Again, when we remember that thousands of our most valuable birds, and almost unnumbered nests and eggs, are wantonly destroyed annually by boys and men; and thousands, yea, millions of the choisest songsters of our groves are brought low to the decree—(in this case)— of sinful and abominable fashions, the inevitable result of this astounding slaughter is plain to be seen. So true as that some portions of our country, once beautiful and fertile, have been transformed into barren and worthless tracts by the destruction of her primeval forests. just so true must civilization suffer loss by destroying natures means of maintaining her equilibruim.

Origin of Our Birds.

A Baltimore oriole and an alligator, an eagle and a lizard, suspended from the same genealogical tree, would represent a rather ludicrous combination, and like some other bipeds, the birds might wish to disclaim the relationship, but the cold rocks have proclaimed the family secret to a heartless world.

It was by the accidental finding of a fossil feather in the lithographic slates of Bavaria about thirty years ago that the true relation of birds to other animals was discovered. Before that time the break between birds and the rest of creation was so abrupt, so wide and so deep, that even the most advanced workers in the field of comporatic anatomy hardly dare hope that it would ever be bridged over, as it had been by recent discoveries, bringing birds closer to their progenitors than any other two classes of the animal creation. More than a century ago eminent naturalists expressed doubts on the subject, but the man who proclaimed boldly views antagonistic to the then generally accepted views of a seperate creation of each class of animals was not only denounced as an infidel, but was in danger of the stake.

Though we live in an age of the greatest civil and religious liberty the world has yet known, though a flood of light is pouring in upon us and the hidden mysteries of the book of Nature, as seal after seal is broken, are being made so plain that even a little child can understand them, yet the pages of the great volume containing the most entertaining and most interesting and useful illustrations, are perhaps, yet uncut.

Following the finding of the single feathers of which we have spoken, come the discovery of parts of an animal to which it was supposed the feather belonged. Later, still, two perfect specimens of the bird, Archaeopteryx, were found in the same region proving, not only the existences of birds in the Jurrassic period, but pointing to the reptilian origin of the class Aves in a manner not to be questioned. These specimens are all deposited in the British Museum. Archaeopteryx was a land bird about the size of a crow.

Subsequently, our countryman, Professor Marsh, of Yale, found in the Jurassic beds of Wyoming, a fossil bird similar to Archaeopteryx which he denominated Laopleryx. These two probably lived contemporaneously, though on different continents, and are the oldest known bird forms. Professor Marsh has since discovered many fossil birds in the Cretaceous formation in the Smoky Hill region, mostly in Western Kansas, all of which he deposited in the museum of Yale College.

These specimens represent two very different types of birds which lived together, as in the same vicinity in Mesozoic time. One was a class of large swimming or wading birds, with only rudimentary wings, as the penguin of today; the other small, swift flying birds, having large wings. His discoveries of fossil birds have proven conclusively that all the ancient birds had teeth, either set in grooves or sockets, sometimes secured but always sharp and covered with hard enamel, and so septilian in character as to unmistakably indicate their saurian origin.

The great physical and climatic changes which our globe has undergone, together with other natural causes, have modified these ancient bird-forms so much that one can hardly believe that the beautiful, brilliant plumaged birds we see in our summer walks are the direct and lineal descendants of those "ungainly, gaunt and ominous birds of yore," yet no fact seems better established.

Of living birds there are none with teeth, yet the biting instinct remains with many families, and some have the ability to inflict serious wounds, such as the parrots and birds of prey.

In some localities there is a general drift of opinion against the birds, and it is getting popular in some parts to consider that it is necessary to make the shotgun a part of the fruit growers and the farmers outfit. This is all wrong. Suppose a movement against them would become so strong that they would be all swept out of existence, and nothing left but the recolection of their beautiful song. We are satisfied that if a robin or a thrush would have been secretly kept alive and it had been suddenly made public, thousands of people would not only pay car fare to go and see and hear it, but they would pay their dollar for the songsters notes more willingly than they do for hearing the most noted human voice. Arctic explorers say that the most terrible thing between the reverberations of the cracking ice is the silence. It is a fact that many shepherds in Australia become demented in the pursuit of their occupation in the birdless portions of the country.

To those who dwell lovingly upon the works of nature, the story of the bird creation is an interesting and pleasing one. There is, I think, no reader of this who can recall a time in the distant flight of years, even to the earliest childhood, when he did not hail with joy the return of the birds in the springtime, or watch for them as eagerly as he gathered the first violets amid the dry leaves on the hillside. And all through the season when the birds were here, even to the present time, he has often stopped to watch their flight, or witness the building of their nests or feeding of their young. He has listened with rapturous delight to their notes at early morn, and now and then has heard their sweet strains in the still night; and today there is scarce a bird that visits us, however temporally, but that he recognizes it by its notes or by its manner of flight.

In many cases the number of our native birds have greatly decreased and in some cases now seldom seen since the early settlement of the county; while in other cases they have greatly increased. Among the feathered tribe that does, and did in earlier days, visit us, is the bluebird (Sialia sialis). This is almost the first bird to reach us from its southern haunts and first to last largely insectivorous in habits. Its food consists largely of grasshoppers and other destructive species, and it is, it would seem, most worthy of encouragement in every way around our homes. This beautiful bird often reaches us while the snow still lingers in places; and again leaves us early in the fall; although I have known it still to continue here long into cold weather.

The little black capped chicade is a pretty bird and quite abundant in our woods. It is quite bold and fearless, and is said to be quite constant in its attacks on insects and to feed extensively an insect eggs deposited on trees, so that their value cannot easily be overestimated. They have been credited with eating caterpillars, beetles cankerworms, plant lice, etc. They show a tendency to become as familiar as the little house wren, and should be encouraged as much as possible in this tendency. They remain with us during the winter, and at that time may do their greatest service in destroying the eggs of injurious insects.

The robin is of one our most common birds, reaches us among the first in the spring and stays with us through the season and until late in the fall, and I have known it to winter in our heavier woods; its staying doubtless depending on whether it can secure a food supply and not in the cold of winter. This is one of our most beautiful song birds; and may be second as one of the most valuable allies of the farmer and gardner, and for most of the year the fruitgrowers.

The cat bird. This bird arrives later and leaves us earlier than the robin, and on the whole is less serviceable, perhaps, and less well known. While the ordinary note is not very agreeable—resembling somewhat the mew of a cat—it occasionally indulges in low sweet music rivalling that of the brown thrush.

The brown thrush is another of our most delightful songsters, and highly prized on account of its beautiful song. No other bird would we miss more from our groves and our woods.

The house wren is still another of our bird friends, and it is so well known that no description is here required. It loves and chooses the abode of man.

Of the swallows, the "wren" swallow, eve or barn swallow, are perhaps the most common. They take their food, largely on the wing; and it consists almost entirely of the adult forms of insects, and the records so far may indicate that the majority of these are injurious. The birds ought therefore to be protected and given all the encouragement possible. The barn swallow is very abundant and builds its mud nests under eves of barns and other convenient places. The chimney swallow, while often seen with us, is not, however very abundant.

The purple martin, is a familure bird here, and, like the wren, chooses the abode of man. Its color is glossy steel blue with purple and violet, reflections. It is a general favorite and encouraged by the erection of numerous houses for its accommodation.

The king bird is one well known to every bee-keeper and farmer boy. To the writer, this bird is one for which there ever remains a pleasant place in his memory. It is loved by some and condemned by others; but in spite of all the condemnation heaped upon him, he has shown his ability to be able to take pretty good care of himself.

The cuckoo, is a shy and peculiar bird; preferring the most secluded and dense woods. It most frequently lays its eggs in the nests of other birds for them to hatch, and rear in part, but they are said to feed them when of some size.

Perhaps one of our most peculiar birds in some respects, is the butcher bird, or Great Northern Shriek. It remains with us the year round, and is very beneficial. It has a very peculiar habit of impaling grasshoppers, beetles and other insects, as well as small birds, mice, etc, upon thorns and barbs of wire fences. It is not uncommon to see a dozen or more insects in a line impaled upon wire fence barbs by this bird. It is generally supposed this is done for the purpose of storing up food for some future day; but such appears not to be generally the case, as very often they are not again touched by him. Much might be said regarding this most interesting bird.

The waxwing, cedar bird and flycatchers are occasionally seen, but are by no means common with us in this county.

Scarlet tandigers, wild canaries, bluejays and Baltimore orioles are among some of our most beautiful birds, and are often seen here.

The bobolink is a bird of our early spring, and perhaps more written about than any others of our feathered songsters. Among birds, he is what the buttercup and the violets are among flowers—"the early and sweet harbingers of spring."

The meadowlark, too, is deserving of special mention, as he comes back to us so early in the spring and remains with us so long.

The "prairie pigeon" and "prairie snipe" and "long-billed snipe" occur in the county; though the latter is now scarcely ever seen. The "prairie snipe," is also relatively rare, though formerly occurring in large numbers.

The cow blackbird, crow blackbird and red-winged blackbird, are common here, though rare now, when compared with the early days. Back in the early pioneer days, the writer well remembers when the blackbird—all three species mentioned—would, in the fall of the year, congregate into vast flocks, numbering thousands upon thousands, and often in their flight form vast, dense strings, miles and miles in length. When these great flocks settled down upon a cornfield, grain stacks or upon the trees in a grove, and in concert pour forth their joyous song, it was indeed a sound of melody and of joy indescribable; and only those who have heard it can form any idea of its beauty and its melody. The times of these happy sights and sounds are now forever passed away; for they belonged to a period forever gone, and to an era different in every respect than now. It is not to be wondered at, that in this latter day many of the old pioneers, in reviewing the past, sigh for those vanished days, and the joys they knew in that olden time.

The yellow-headed blackbird is now scarce here, and, in fact, seldom ever seen. In earlier times however, they were somewhat more numerous.

The woodcock, kill deer, "tipup" belted kingfisher, blue crane, two or three species of gulls and rose-breasted grosbeak, and some others are more or less abundant in Floyd County.

The night hawk is nine and one half inches long, and the wing over eight inches, and is so well known as to require no further description in this place. Night hawks are not strictly nocternal, as the name implies; but are often upon the wing throughout the entire day, especially if it be cloudy. They are generally most active just before night and retire to rest at dark. Their loud, squeaking notes are familiar to all. The singular loud and half-booming sound which they make in plunging from a great height is produced by the concussion caused by the new position of the wings at the moment the bird passes the center of its plunge and commences the ascent. The nighthawk makes no nest, but deposits its eggs on the bare ground, or on a flat rock, in very open woods.

The whippoorwill is a bird which will ever be remembered with pleasure—for they are not now generally heard—by the old settlers. During the early evening, and, indeed, during half the night, their sweet though lonely call of whippoorwill, whippoorwill, was heard in the woods, and would be answered by others farther and farther away. During the day the whippoorwill sleeps upon the ground or on fallen trunks of trees, or on low branches, and may often be approached to within a few feet before it flies. The eggs are laid in May on the bare ground or on dry leaves and in the most secluded parts of thickets.

During the early settlement, the great white and sand-hill cranes occured in this region in vast numbers. In the spring flocks of hundreds in number would often be seen dancing. This was a peculiar and often laughable sight. They would jump up four to ten feet, flap their wings and alight again. Where hundreds were engaged in this performance its peculiar and comical nature can be imagined.

Ducks of various species, Brant and Geese, also occurred in great numbers. Swans, also were not uncommon.

Now all is changed, and but few of these noble birds stop with us in their annual migratory flights.

The black and the spotted loons, were also common visitors with us. The "bitterns," or "stake-driver" or "thunder-pumper," as it was often called, was in former times quite abundant, but is now quite scarce. The night heron also breeds with us in considerable numbers.

The white-bellied nuthatch is abundant and often mistaken for a little woodpecker. It moves along trunks and branches with the greatest facility. The nest is made in a hole excavated in a decayed trunk or branch. Red-headed and yellow-winged woodpeckers are seen everywhere in the wooded regions, and often distant from any timber.

Partridges, buffed grouse, are not uncommon in places. It is an interesting and rather cunning bird, and prefers the dense woods and thickets. It was originally much more abundant than now.

Mourning doves still remain with us in numbers, and often stay until late in the fall. Wild pigeons, formerly occurred in great numbers but in these days scarcely an individual of this famous species is ever seen.

The common quail, or "bob-white," occurs here now in only small, isolated flocks. But in days gone by it was very numerous, and would often come up close around the settlers cabin to feed, and in fact often winter with the farmers poultry, where it was seldom or never disturbed, but in fact fed and protected.

The hawks, owls and crows are quite abundant, and are among the farmers best friends, but usually killed on sight.

Turkey buzzards, bald eagle, fish hawk, swallow-tailed hawk, are more or less frequently seen, as well as many other species not here mentioned.

The prairie chicken is scarce, and becoming more so every year. During the early settlement of the county, this bird occurred by the thousands; flocks containing from 100 to 500 or more, being common. Their peculiar "booming" in the springtime, could be heard, when the air was clear, from one to three miles. This was to the country boy (of whom I was one) one of the pleasantest sounds of springtime, and one well remembered. The encroachments of civilization is rapidly driving this bird away, and soon it will here be a thing of the past.

General Zoological History.

DURING the time of the early settlement of Floyd County, and before, the zoological forms occurring here—aside from those already refered to—were quite abundant and varied. But the settling up of the region has driven many of them away, and others have become extinct here; while the habits of still others have in some respects been changed. Some forms not indeginous to the region, have been added, and now constitute a part of its fauna.

During the early settlement of Floyd County or as late as 1853, buffalos were not uncommon on the prairies within the bounds of this county. During the winter they would come to the timber for shelter from the cold merciless blast. During the year mentioned, John Blunt, Charles Johnson and David Green killed three buffalos among the oaks not far northwest from Charles City. Prior to the settle-

ment of the county in 1850, one, Rufus Clark, a Government Surveyor, killed numerous buffalo within the bounds of what now constitute our county. Daniel Whitesel of Rock Grove township, states that about the year 1850, he was out with several parties surveying land where the old "buck" form is now located, just west of Rockford. Among the party was one Grey. While they were at work near the timber they saw an old buffalo making for them and all took to their heels, save Grey, whose legs were too short and the snow to deep to enable him to get away. He stood his ground with ax in hand while the animal made straight for him. When within reach he dealt the animal a terrific blow in the forehead with the ax which killed it. On examination it was found the buffalo had been fearfully burned in the prairie fires and was blind. The animal being blind, and instead of intentionally charging the men, was endeavoring to escape from them.

A few years since while making some explorations in an old peat bed in the southwest portion of the County, we unearthed a portion of the skeleton of a buffalo, which, doubtless, met its death by becoming mired down here long years before.

Elk existed in early times in comparative abundance, but they succumbed to the aggressions of the white man as readily as the buffalo. An instance of considerable interest connected with this subject, was the capture of four young elk by Joseph Kelley, the first actual white settler in what is now Charles City. These elk Mr. Kelley kept for some time, domesticating and breaking them to harness, etc. Their use along the roads, however frightened horses so much that Mr. Kelley finally sold them. On one occasion Mr. Kelley saw a man driving a large elk hitched up with a horse. His stately antlers "towering up as high as a house," made the team appear very grotesque. This horned animal, however, was rather unmanageable. On approaching a body or stream of water, he would make for it in spite of all opposition. Mr. Kelly bought this elk, paying $60 for it; but as, on driving him along the road, he frightened horses, which were drawing vehicals, he had to be abandoned for road service.

His owner was accustomed to let him run around at large, with a bell attached to his neck. In the spring of 1856, however, the dogs commenced chasing him and one day he took refuge in an occupied house, frightening the inmates almost out of their wits. Mr. Kelly this time abandoned him to the wilds and never went after him.

In September, 1895, Mr. John Turner, while plowing up an extensive deposit of peat on his farm a few miles north of Rockford, discovered a finely preserved, disseminated skeleton of an elk. When in life, this animal was large and of stately proportion, the frame showing it to have been a powerful and full grown animal of this noble species. The antlers were broad and spreading and the teeth as perfect as in life. Although large and powerful, it was still a young animal as was plainly shown by the teeth. This is a relic of much interest and recalls the time far back in the early history of this region, when this noble species, together with the buffalo and the deer, occupied the prairies and woods of this region as their home. The elk had when this region was far wetter than now, in some way become mired in this old peat deposit and so met his death, the peculiar chemical properties of the peat deposit preserving the remains to us of this distant day.

Deer, ("Virginia deer") were abundant in this county up to 1856-7, when they were wantonly exterminated, or practically so, during a severe winter. Ralph Rowly, of Rock Grove Township, states that during the early winter, he, in passing over the bleak prairies from his home to Charles City—then known as St. Charles—he would not infrequently see herds of deer huddled together in the "runs" on the prairies "trying to keep warm," by, as far as possible, forming a wind brake for each other.

Mr. Joseph Kelly killed eight deer in one day in the vicinity of Charles City, during the fall of 1850. For years after this, also, many deer were killed in this vicinity.

Black bear occurred in the heavier woods in various portions of the county in early days; and were captured both by white hunters and by Indians.

Raccoons were formerly abundant; and are yet, in some localities, not infrequently met with, especially in our heavier timber. Their peculiar owl-like note at night is usually mistaken for that of the owl.

It has been stated that opossums once occurred in this county, but I have no positive evidence that this is the case, and in fact it appears quite probable that this species was never indegenous here at any period.

Panthers are known to have occurred here in very few numbers in early days.

Wild cats were not uncommon in our woods when the country was first settled; and indeed it is some times met with here even yet.

The red and gray fox once occurred with us in considerable numbers, but the former is not now met with, although the latter is sometimes captured. Only a few weeks ago two gray foxes were shot in the timber about seven miles southeast of Charles City.

Of wolves, both the large gray and smaller prairie wolf, was once quite common; and in fact the latter occurs in considerable numbers yet. During the early days I saw at a distance what was, doubtless, a timber wolf, near Rockford. From earliest boyhood I have been intimately acquainted with the prairie wolf. They called him the sneak of the prairie, but the name did him an injustice. He was a sneak, it is true, but it was from necessity, not from choice. Who wouldnot cover and hide and always try and keep out of right if every man's hand was against him. The prairie wolf leads a hard life; he is often hungry and still more often scared, and he depends for safety altogether on his speed, cunning and his faculty for shunning observation. During the time of the first settlement of the county this wolf often preyed upon the settler's pig pen and hen coop, and where sheep were kept, they often played havoc with the flock. In a few cases too, in the history of the county, they have been known to attack man. Nothing about the prairie wolf however, is better known to the writer, and in fact to all who are acquainted with him, than his voice. This consists of such a marvelous combination of barks, yelps, whines and growels, that a single animal baying near by on the prairies will, to the unitiated ear, convey the impression that a "thousand wolves" are indulging in a free for-all fight.

A few years ago the officials of this county were, at two different times during the same spring, called upon to pay bounty upon wolf pelts. The first time there were twenty-two of the prairie wolf brought in by one, Davis, that netted him $110. About six weeks later another batch of twenty-six were brought in to the court house by the same party. The auditor, becoming slightly suspicious, had the party wait, upon some pretex. whiie he called in an old wolf hunter to inspect the pelts. It was then discovered that they were a clever imitation, all being made from a hide or two, and cleverly sewed so as to form ears and scalp. This exposure lead to the belief that the first batch was also "made," but, being destroyed, there was no evidence, so that he was allowed to sneak away, leaving the fur as a reminder to the too-ambitious auditor, who had paid out the county's money at the rate of $5 per pelt for machine-made scalps.

Circumstantial evidence would seem to demonstrate that "wolf-farming" has been carried on by various parties in this county at different times.

Most of our large wild animals have disappeared before the march of time, but the prairie wolf abide with us still, and remains a rather familiar feature of our landscape, connecting the yesterday with the today, and in spite of all his short comings, we would indeed be sorry to have him disappear.

Beavers, during the early settlement of Floyd County, were common: and often built their dams across streams, setting their waters back for some distance, often forming quite extensive ponds. This was the case on the Little Cedar; "big and little beaver's and beaver dam brook in the western part of the county. This animal was noted for gnawing down trees on the banks of rivers with which to aid in building their dams. This was one of the most sought-after fur-bearing animals by the white trapper and the Indians. So far as known, not an individual of this species now exists within the bounds of the county.

Badgers were once common, but now are rarely met with.

Otters were abundant, and are still occasionally met; two or three recently having been killed on the Little Cedar, and others seen there.

Muskrats were also formerly very abundant; and still are common along most of our streams and ponds. In some of the sloughs, in early days, muskrat houses could often be seen by the hundreds; presenting the appearance of thickly clustered hay "tumbles." While the skin of this animal brought a smaller price in the market than that of any other fur-bearing animal sought by the trapper, still because of their great numbers, they usually brought him in a greater amount of revenue.

The common gray rabbit has always been more than "common" with us; and this year (1897-8) have in many places proven almost a pest. The pursuit of this animal furnishes our local hunters with much sport, and its flesh is highly esteemed as an article of food, and finds a ready sale in our markets.

Of the squirrels, the common gray squirrel and the chipmunk are the most common in our woods, although the fox squirrel (a variety only of the gray form) sometimes occurs. The red squirrel is also abundant; but the flying squirrel does not occur with us, save in very limited numbers.

The jack rabbit is now common with us. Although up to within three or for years it was entirely unknown in this county. This is an interesting example of the "spread" or increase in the geographic range of certain animals. In spite of the fact that this animal is being persistently hunted and shot, it is rapidly gaining ground with us, and is apparently here to stay. The region to the west from whence it came is much less thickly settled than is this county, but it seems to be making fully as rapid headway in the occupancy of the country here as farther west.

The common gray and striped gopher has always been abundant, and at times has proven very destructive to the farmer's crops.

The woodchuck, when the country was first settled was not known, but now it is quite abundant with us.

Skunks have grown from "occasional" to many. Mink were formerly abundant, and still even now are quite common. Weasels were abundant, but now scarce. Moles and field mice are also numbered among our possessions, as well as the common rat and mouse.

At least two species of bats are with us. A few other species of animals, not herein listed, are found within the bounds of our county.

In passing over the prairies of this county, especially during the earlier days, the attention is arrested by the great number of isolated or grouped mounds which are seen over the surface. The origin of these "peculiar structures" is a mystery to most people; they believing them to be "Indian mounds" or even "ancient muskrat houses." By far the greater number of these mounds owe their origin to the pocket gopher (Geomys bursarius), which year by year made addition to them by the dirt brought forth in the extension of their underground channels, until they finally assumed the proportions now seen. The pocket gopher is abundant with us and is usually considered a great pest.

Several species of breams are abundant, and their flesh fine. Buffalo was once common and often attained a very large size, but is not, so far as known to me, found here today. "Wall eyed pike is common. The suckers, both black and white, are also common. The redhorse, however, is perhaps one of our most abundant species, barring the breams. Bullheads abound, and weigh from one to four pounds. The "mud catfish" are occasionally met with, and occasionally weigh from six to eight pounds. Eels are sometimes cought and are frequently very large. "Shiners" and "minnows" are abundant, especially in running waters. Our streams have, from time to time, been stocked with several species of fish, most of which appear to have "done well." At different periods during the county's history, a fatal disease has afflicted the native fish, often killing them by the tens of thousands. Our soft fish—redhorse and suckers—were most often attacked, the hard-fleshed fish—black bass, etc.— usually escaping. From personal study of the matter, it was found that at least very many of the fish that succumbed was attacked by large, red, ugly ulcers. Some times these ulcers were internal and did not show on the surface. A scientific treatise on this subject is being prepared by the writer.

The aquatic and terrestial moluscan forms within our borders are abundant and varied, and certainly deserve special mention but lack of space prevents more than a passing reference.

Fresh-Water Pearls.

But few recognize the magnitude and importance of the fresh-water pearl industry of the United States; and still fewer realize what our state, and especially our county, has been doing in this line. A large amount of the most valuable material has been gathered regarding this industry here, and much more is yet to be obtained.

The Cedar river in Iowa, will, in the near future, become as noted for its pearls as the Cumberland river of Tennessee, the Miama of Ohio, or the Sugar river in Wisconsin the last named stream alone having marketed over $100,000 worth from 1889 to 1893. That portion of the Cedar river flowing through Floyd and Chickasaw counties has yielded about three hundred marketable pearls (and thousands of inferior ones) varying from one-eighth to one-half inch in diameter or from two to eighteen grains in weight. Some valuable pearly masses weighing 162 to 300 grains or more have also been found. One collector in particular has a necklace of sixty pearls that weighs 211¾ grains, the two largest (button-shaped) weighing 24½ grains. They are of a ruby wine color and matchless luster.

Fish, Reptils, Mollusks, of Floyd County.

AMONG the turtles which are common to our county, may may be mentioned the large snapping, and soft-shelled turtles, both of which are abundant in our ponds and streams. The common "painted turtle" is also equally abundant in the same localities as the above. The wood turtle is present with us in dry woods, but is not abundant. Occuring here, though very scarce, is one or two other species of turtle.

In treating of the natural history of the county we have intentionally avoided, as far as possible, all technical terms and scientific names, as the treatise is designed to be a popular one. But, as before stated, no pains has been spared to make this strictly accurate and scientifically correct in every respect.

Of the serpents indigenous here, may be named the striped snake, green snake and water snake. These are common. The two species of rattle snakes, which were abundant when the county was first settled, are now almost a thing of the past, individuals of these species now being scarcely ever heard of. This statement also applies to the black snake, blue racer, blow snake and a few others.

The common green frog and bullfrog were once much more abundant than now. One cause of their diminishing numbers is the draining of the sloughs and the general diminuation of the water supply of this region.

One or two species of tree toads and the common garden toad occur here in greater or less numbers.

At least two species of 'crabs" and the "water dog" are often observed in our streams, as well as the black and yellow-spotted "lizard" on the land, as well as also a land crab.

Of the fish occurring in our waters, the black bass and pickerel are the most gamey and popular, and are quite common.

Archaeological History of Floyd County.

UP TO about 1888, when extensive explorations of ancient mound-builder mounds was begun by the writer, it was generally believed, and so published, that no evidence existed in Floyd County to show that this region had ever been inhabited by the mound-builders; and that no relics of any kind had ever been found here, save an occasional arrow or spear, or perhaps a stone ax or two.

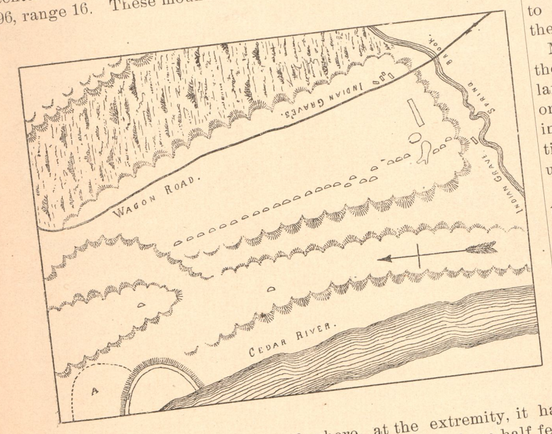
From the above date, until the present time, extensive explorations have from time to time been conducted along these lines by me, and with results the most satisfactory. Many groups of ancient mounds, graves, fortifications, etc., have been discovered and mainly explored; and a vast amount of relics and evidence of the greatest scientific importance secured, in fact a sufficient amount to more than fill a large volume. The results of some of these discoveries was made known to the world through the Smithsonian and other scientific institutions, as well as through the columns of the Intelligencer. Although considerable has already been published on this subject by myself, still, but very little, compared to the amount secured, has yet appeared in print. Here only a general synopsis of some of these most interesting and important discoveries can be given.

In the fierce struggle of life

today, when momentous political civil and other questions confront us, it is seldom, if ever, called to mind, save by the few, that in the far distant days of the past, another race or races of men occupied this beautiful region as their home. These old people who lived here, fought, loved and died, long ago passed away, leaving behind them as a monument of their former occupancy only the fortifications, burial mounds of their dead, ornaments, weapons and utensils. These remain to us as silent records of a people vanished and gone—they have fulfilled their destiny and passed away. To the thoughtful mind it is saddening —the contemplation of a mighty race passing away. But perhaps we of the present race may be on the same track, as history repeats itself over and over again—one race passes away to make room for those who are to follow.

Ancient Mounds Near Charles City.

In the eastern part of Floyd County, near Charles City, a large and very interesting group of ancient mounds occur, most of which have been explored by me. All those mounds (thirty-four in number) are located, with one exception, two miles northwest from Charles City, near the center of section 26, township 96, range 16. These mounds occur (except the three issolated ones) in a nearly straight line, running about 20 degrees west of north on the summit of a low, broad ridge. A spring brook flows past this line of mounds, and the Cedar river about half a mile to the west: while a quarter of a mile to the east is located a slough, and a longitudinal depression occurs at the base of the ridge on the west. Tne following cut represents a map of these mounds and vicinity



These mounds are in reality situated in the valley of the Cedar river (and mainly on the farm of John Scrimiger), the true valley side being from half to three-fourths of a mile to the east. This entire ridge was originally covered with a heavy growth of oaks, poplars, etc., but most of it has long since been cleared away in the opening up of the land for cultivation.

Mound No. 1, counting from the south end of the line, 63 feet in length, and 48 feet in width, and three feet in height. This appears to have been a natural elevation to which dirt had been brought and so completed the mound. This was partially explored, but nothing found. Seventy-five feet to the west from No. 1 is a circular mound 21 feet in diameter and one and one-half feet in height, unexplored. Fifteen feet north-west from the last is another circular unexplored mound, 20 feet in width and two feet in height. Ten feet from No. 3 is a large curved mound 163 feet in length (following the outer basal curvature), and varying from 20 to 25 feet in width and from two and one-half to three feet in height. This mound tapers and decreases in height toward the north-west, where, at the extremity, it has a height of one and one-half feet and a width of eight feet. Not far from the north-west extremity of this mound occurs a spur or extension of the main mound. This spur is 27 feet long, and quite rapidly diminishes in height and width (especially in height) until at the end it is less than one foot high and only 10 feet wide. This appears to have been an original mound with addition made to it by human hands. Excavations were made in this mound at different points down to the level of the ground at its base, but without finding anything. The north part of this mound, at the time of exploration, was still covered with hazlebrush, while the south part had been plowed over for many years. This mound as well as mound No. 1 seems not to have been raised for sepulchral purposes, as nearly all others of the group have been

To the east from No. 4, and only between four and five feet at the nearest point. This mound is ovate in marginal outline, 30 feet long. 24 feet wide and two feet high. From the center it slopes rather more rapidly to the north than to the south. A few feet from the last mentioned mound, and to the southeast of it, is a long mound, 81 feet in length, 15 feet wide at the base, and two feet in height in the center.

The material for the erection of these mounds was scraped from the surface around. These mounds were apparently reared for the purpose of defence.

Running north by northwest from the ovate mound just mentioned, and arranged in a line, are several small, circular mounds from eight to 10 feet in diameter. For what purpose these were raised, we are at present unable to state, as no exploration of them has yet been made.

Mound No. 5 (first north from the large mound, No. 4) is circular, 300 feet from No. 4, one and one-half feet in height, 21 feet in diameter, and surface, at that time, occupied by hazlebrush, unexplored

No, 6, a mound 200 feet from the base of No. 5, circular, one and one-half feet in height, and 21 feet in diameter. This ancient mound had been plowed over for years. No exploration of it was made.

No. 7, is a mound in all respects very similar to No. 6; the earth composing it having been scraped from the surface around; unexplored.

No 8 is a circular mound, 45 feet in diameter, three feet in height, and 50 feet distant from No. 7. This mound, like many of the others, had for a series of years been cultivated over, unexplored.

No. 9 is a mound ten feet distant, from No. 8, is about 30 feet in diameter, and two and one-half feet in height. An exploration of this mound was made by excavation in the center 8 feet square, and extending down to the level at its base. From 20 inches below its surface, and downward, fragments of pottery was found. Lying on the natural surface of the ground was found a closely packed bundle of human leg and arm bones lying due east and west. On the east end of these bones reposed a crushed and somewhat separated cranium, some portions of which were very thick, and the teeth large and strong. The bones and skull were those of a young adult person. Two feet to the northeast from the first bundle of bones was another similar bundle lying directed a few degrees south of east. On the east end of this bundle lay a portion of a crushed skull. The skull and bones were somewhat charred by fire, which appears to have been done after being placed in the mound. A few feet to the southeast from the last bundle of bones, was found another similar closely packed bundle, lying directed about 13 degrees south of east. No skull was found with this bundle. A few feet to the northwest from the first bundle of bones was found another like bundle, lying due east and west; no skull was present. Scattered through the mound were a few small pieces of charcoal, hard burned clay, and pieces of limestone, showing the action of fire. Some years ago on excavation was made in the center of this mound and a skull, together with one or two bundles of bones, was taken out. All the bones in this mound showed more or less evidence of calcination. With one exception, all the remains had been elsewhere cremated before being placed in this mound. Formerly an oak tree 12 inches in diameter occupied the surface of the center of this mound, only the stump now remaining.

No. 10, is a circular mound, 36 feet in diameter and three feet in height, and 12 feet from No. 9 An examination of this mound was made but with no special result.

No. 11, a circular mound 45 feet in diameter and two and one-fourth feet in height. An excavation eight feet square and two and one-fourth feet deep, was made in the center of this mound. Ten inches below the surface and slightly east of the center a piece of broken pottery and a few fragments of charcoal alone were found. No evidence

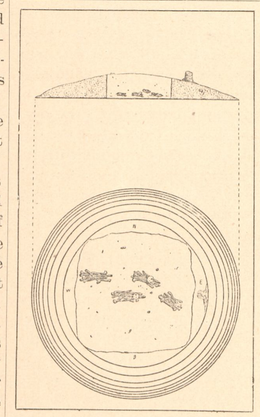
of fire was observed, save the charcoal, which appears to have been brougt in. This mound was certainly reared as a burial place; but time had removed all evidence of it, save the few relics discovered.

No. 12 of this line is similar to the preceding, but slightly smaller, and 12 feet distant from it A partial exploration of this mound was made and numerous pieces of hard-burned clay was found scattered through it, all of which had been brought in. Ten inches below the surface of the mound a portion of a calcined femur was found; all other portions of the body had disappeared. No trace of fire in this mound was noticed.

Mound No. 13 was much like the preceding one, and was not explored.

No. 14 is a mound only 16 feet from the last, and is circular, 51 feet wide and one and one-half feet high. In the center of the mound and 10 inches below the surface, a peculiar, imperfect skull, apparently that of a dog, was found, facing the southwest. Near this skull, and seven inches below, were found, quite closely associated, five bundles of leg and arm bones similar to those found in other mounds of this series already described.

In three cases a skull (crushed) had been placed on the west end of the bundle of bones, and in one instance a skull had been placed between two of these bundles. Underneath the west end of the north bundle was one-half of a lower jaw, still retaining the teeth. The skull between the bundles had been placed on its right side, with mouth wide open, facing the northwest. Scattered in the soil near it were a number of its teeth, indicating that they had dropped out before being covered with earth. All the bundles of bones lay directed in an east, northeast or southeast direction, none of them outside of the radius of the rising sun at some period of the year. In all but two instances the bones occupied a horizontal position, but in two cases they sloped upward at an angle of several degrees. Seven inches below the dog skull numerous pieces of ribs and other small bones were found, which had been thrown in promiscuously. All the skulls were rather thick, jaws and teeth large and strong. Some of the bones were those of very old individuals, while the majority were those of young adult persons. Associated with the human remains, and scattered through the mound, were numerous pieces of burnt clay and charcoal which had been brought in. This charcoal was of oak, of the same species as now grows in the region. Six inches below the surface of the mound two large slabs of water-worn (Devonian) limestone were found. These was obtained from the Cedar river, near by. The human remains had all been cremated before being placed in the mound.



Sectional views of typical mound on Scrimiger farm near Charles City, Iowa.

Mound No. 15 is 10 feet from the last, circular 30 feet in diameter and one and three-forth feet in height. A partial exploration of this mound failed to show any indication of fire or to yield relics of any kind.

No. 16, was another mound of the same character as the last A partial exploration of this mound revealed the presence of human leg and arm bones, 17 inches below the surface of the mound, apparently thrown in promiscuously. No traces of fire or other relics than those mentioned were found.

Mound No. 17, is similar to No. 16, and is situated but a few feet from it. An oak stump eight or 10 inches in diameter still occupied a position on the edge of this mound.

Twenty feet from 17, is mound 18, having a diameter of 42 feet, a height of two and one-half feet. A trench two feet wide and two and one half feet deep was made through the center of this mound from east to west, but no trace of fire or relics of any kind was found. The material of the mound was homogeneous throughout. It was a source of wonder to me on exploring many of these ancient works, that most of the relics secured were so well preserved, when the method of erecting the mounds was taken into consideration and also the length of time which has elapsed between the time of these ancient burials and the present. All these mounds now nearly are quite barren of relics, certainly at one time contained more or less of them; and hence they still posess great interest to all those interested in this strange old history.

No. 19, a mound 20 feet distant from No. 18, circular, 42 feet in diameter and two and one-half feet in height. Occupying the surface of the mound was some hazlebrush, and growing on the edge was a burr oak tree one foot in diameter. Near the center of the mound three large oaks had recently been grubbed out. On the stump of one was counted sixty-three annual rings. In the center of this mound an excavation eight feet square and two and one-half feet deep was made. Lying at length, on a level with the ground around the mound, a skeleton of an adult person was found. This skeleton lay with the head 11 degrees south of east. The body had been placed on its back, head lying on its left side, muoth open about one inch, left shoulder drawn up and chin resting on the clavicle, and arms at the side.

The cranium was large and well formed, the jaws and teeth strong and rather large, and judging from the worn condition of the crowns of the teeth, it was that of a person somewhat advanced in years. The skeleton indicated a person over six feet in height. As this skeleton, together with others, was stolen soon after being exhumed, it has made it impossible to give correct measurements here as was desired. All the bones were in a poor state of preservation. No trace of fire was observed in the mound, or relics of any description found with the bones. The earth around and for one and one-half feet above the body had been tramped hard.

Mound No. 20, 21 feet from the last, and of the same form and dimensions, and covered with a growth of hazlebrush, the young oaks and poplars which but a few years ago occupied it, having been cut down and removed. An exploration of this mound was made with the following result; In the center of the mound, and 26 inches below the surface, was found three bundles of leg bones five skulls in a crushed condition and what appeared to be two pelvis bones much decayed. In the center of this assemblage of bones was a small earthern vace or urn, set upright. Associated with and distributed in the earth above the bones were numerous pieces of charcoal, burned clay, and one or two pieces of broken pottery. The bundles of bones, with one exception, all lay in an easterly and westerly direction, while the skulls and other bones were placed here without apparent order.

Most of the crania were those of young adult individuals, one of them a babe with milk teeth. Some of them, however, were those of very old persons, the crowns of the teeth (the teeth in all the skulls were very large) all having been worn down to and sometimes deeply into the dentine. The urn, which was of the rudest form the writer has ever seen from any mound, was nearly perfect. The bones, which were all in a poor state of preservation, were more or less calcined, some before and some after having been placed in the mound. The charcoal (one piece found was 21 inches in length and four inches in diameter) was of oak, and of the same species as now abundantly occupies the region and the surface of some of the mounds. The soil above and around the bones had been packed very hard.

No. 21, a circular mound about 30 feet in diameter, two feet in height, and 25 feet distant from No. 20. The surface of this mound was covered by small hazlebrush, and until recently by a growth of young oaks and poplars. An exploration revealed a circular, oval mound of red burned clay, a foot in thickness at the center and about 10 feet in diameter one foot below the surface of the rest of the mound. Near the center of the mound, and underneath the burned clay, were three bundles of bones, similar to those found in other mounds of this series. Two of the bundles lay directed 11 degrees east of south; the third bundle lay directed due northwest and southeast. On the north end of the two first bundles of bones reposed a crushed skull, and on the southeast end of the third bundle was also a crushed cranium. These bones were all very much charred by fire. Associated with these bundles of bones were large quantities of other human bones, almost entirely consumed by burning. In

the black soil above the burned clay a few small pieces of oak charcoal was found. Neither charcoal nor ashes, bones nor other relics, were found in the burned clay. This mound appears to have been used, not only as a burial mound, but as a cremation mound as well. It is known that the human remains found in the majority of the mounds of this group had been elsewhere cremated before being placed in the mounds.

Mound No. 22, is of the same dimensions as the last, surface occupied by a few hazlebrush and young oaks. Near the center and two feet below the center of the mound, a bundle of bones was found, together with a portion of a skull, all of which were in a much decayed condition. The bundle of bones lay due northeast and southwest. Distributed in the mound were pieces of oak charcoal and burned clay, which had been brought in. There was no evidence that fire was used at this burial here. The soil around and for some inches above the bones had been beaten hard.

No 23. This was a circular, flattened mound, 30 feet in diameter. The surface was occupied by hazlebrush and a few small and medium sized oak trees. A partial exploration of this was made, but no relics were found or evidence of fire observed.

No. 24, is 25 feet from the last, but has a diameter 15 feet greater than the preceding. The surface, however, was covered by the same class of vegetation. Three feet south of the center of the mound we came upon a bundle of bones lying due east and west. Lying one on the east and one on the west end of these bones, were two skulls. The skull occupying a position on the east end, lay on its left side facing south by southwest. It was large, of moderate thickness, forehead low and sloping abruptly backward; teeth large and strong, and with crowns of molars and premolars worn smooth, indicating an old individual. As this skull soon crumbled in pieces on exposure to the atmosphere, definite measurements were not taken. The second skull was in a crushed condition, although a partial restoration of its parts was possible. Through the back part of the skull (left parietal bone) were three circular holes arranged in a line (the smaller one in the center). Whether these perforations were made by human hands or by the agency of some insect or its boring larva, after the burial of the bones and their softening by decay, we are unable to state. The latter supposition, however, seems to us the most probable.

No. 25, is of the same diameter as the last, but is three feet in height, which is rather unusual in this group. The surface was occupied by the same, but more dense, arboreal vegetation and undergrowth as occupies the surface of many of the other mounds. An exploration of this mound revealed nothing save a few scattered fragments of charcoal and burned clay, which had been brought in from some other locality. The material of the mound had been tamped hard.

The next mound, 26, was much the same as the preceding, and yielded about the same results on exploration The next mound to this, 27, was somewhat smaller, but was only five feet removed from it. Unexplored.

No. 28, is a mound 40 feet from the last, is circular, one foot in height, and 24 feet in diameter. This mound was covered by brush and trees, and was not explored. About one third of a mile to the northwest from this line of mounds, an isolated circular mound occurs. It is located on the brow of a somewhat higher and much narrower ridge and about 40 rods from an abandoned portion of the channel of the Cedar. This mound, we were informed by Mr. Capron, the present owner of the land, was originally about one and one-half feet in height and 20 feet in diameter, but as it had been industriously plowed over for more than thirty-five years, its greatest height when examined by me was only about six inches. A thorough exploration of this mound was made and with the following result: One foot below the surface of the mound, and six inches below the natural surface of the ground around the mound. was found a large quantity of broken pottery, charcoal, two "sinkers," one rude arrow point and a few flint clippings. All these relics showed evidence of having been burned after having been placed in the mound, One foot below the pottery, portions of a human skeleton were found. The bones (which appeared not to have been placed in a bundle) were too few and too badly decayed to allow any definite knowledge as to the original placing of the body. A portion of the pottery found here presents a combination of net or basket markings and of separate cord markings. The regularity of the impressions upon the subglobulor bodies indicates almost unbroken contact with the interior surface of the woven vessel. The rims have been ornamented by separately impressing coarse twisted cords. The rims of two of the vessels were ornamented exactly like the "Ancient British Vace," figured on page 399 of the Third Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology, except that the three upper and the three lower parallel lines are wanting. Some of the vessels were smooth; all of a very moderate thickness, of a yellowish-red color, and made of pounded granite of drift origin, fine gravel and clay. Portions of six vessels were found, and all, with one exception, having the rim variously molded and artistically decorated by the impressions of coarse twisted cords. One of the largest vessels, which was less fractured than the rest, and which admitted of a partial reconstruction of its parts, had an aperture diameter of 20½ centimeters, and a diameter of the large and abrupt flaring portion near the base of 31, and a height of 16 centimeters. The neck of this vessel was sharply constricted With one or two exceptions, all the vessels were of the same general form but somewhat smaller. Some years ago Mr. Capron made an excavation in this mound and took out numerous small pieces of pottery, and one sinker larger and finer than either of those obtained by me.

About a foot to the northeast from the mound was a saucer-shaped depression 10 feet in diameter and one and one-half feet in depth, from which dirt had been taken in the construction of the mound. Originally this excavation was much larger. On a much lower level on the bank of the now abandoned channel of the river, and about 40 rods to the northwest from the mound, considerable quantities of broken pottery, some of it differing greatly in decoration from any found in the mounds, has been plowed up. Considerable numbers of arrow points, together with lance points, drills, hammers, flin chipping, stone hatchets, etc., have also been found. This statement applies equally well to a low flat area (of which the above is a part) extending a quarter of a mile to the northeast and for more than that distance to the south, This whole area was without doubt at different times occupied as village sites; and in that distant day may have been covered with timber the same as the region bordering it now is.

The people who erected these mounds here, and to whom the ancient village sites belonged, certainly occupied this region for a long period of time, and it was a beautiful region and one well adapted in every way to suit their tastes and desires. Game was abundant, fish plenty, and good water and timber sufficient.

About half a mile to the northeast of the last described mound another isolated circular mound occurs. This is located upon the extremity of the brow of a rather high and abrupt truncate ridge, which here approaches to within a few rods of the Cedar. From this point a fine view of a considerable portion of the valley may be gained. This mound, which was opened by some parties from Charles City some years ago, was said to have been circular (and was), 20 feet in diameter and two feet in height. But little information as to the result of the exploration of this mound has been obtained by the writer, save that a considerable quantity of fabric and cord marked pottery, much of it similar to that obtained from the mound on the Capron farm, was found, and that it had been subjected to the action of fire after having been placed in the mound. Several fine specimens of this pottery were sometime afterward presented to me by one of the party making the exploration. The larger fabric-marked specimen is of peculiar interest from the fact that in the manufacturing of the vessel (that portion of it known) showing deep depressions or indentations made by pressure of the hand or fingers, this giving both the interior and exterior of the vessel an uneven surface. This vessel appears to have been formed by placing the material in some subelastic mold (perhaps of willow) and pressing into form by the hand; but prior to which the mold for, perhaps, the purpose, 1st, of facilitating the removal of the vessel from the mold, and, 2nd, for the purpose of ornamentation. Near this mound was found (by Burt Harwood, one of the explorers of the mound) and presented to me, numerous arrow points, a fish spear (according to Abbot) a knife and fine "plum-bob?"

4.196

The point of special interest regarding the arrow heads is their (in some cases extreme), rudeness of form. The knife, which is a beautiful specimen, is of milky quartz, and tapers to each end. The "plum-bob" is a beautiful symmetrical specimen, ovate in form, and the size of an ordinary hen's egg. Running longitudinally around this specimen is a rather profound groove.

The knife, spear and plum-bob are, so far as known to me, of rare occurrence in Iowa.

On the second ridge west which is slightly lower than the line of mounds first described, and directly opposite No. 14, is another isolated mound. This mound is 42 feet long from north to south, and 30 feet wide and one foot high at the center. Formerly a fare-sized oak tree occupied the surface in the center of the mound. Many years working of the plow has reduced the height to a considerable degree. About three feet from the base of the northeast part of the mound was a saucer-shaped depression (originally larger and deeper) about 22 feet in diameter and one foot deep. Along the entire east side at the base was a depression somewhat shallower than the first one. From these depressions dirt had been taken for the construction of the mound. Near the northeast part of the mound, and two feet below the surface and one foot below the natural surface of the ground around the mound, was found part of a calcined skull and several leg and arm bones. These bones had the appearance of having been placed here in a loose, careless manner, most of them lying directed north and south. Five feet to the south of the remains of the first body were the remains of the second body. This body was represented by a somewhat larger number of calcined leg and arm bones than the first one. The condition of the few well-preserved teeth found with these bones would indicate that they belonged to a person somewhat passed middle life. The long bones, with one exception all, lay directed north and south. Both bodies found here had been cremated at some other locality before being placed in the mound. From near the surface of the mound was obtained a few pieces of charcoal, flint chippings and a small piece of pottery. The bones in the mound, as well as the bones in many of the other mounds examined, had been considerably gnawed, and some of them destroyed, by the pouched gopher (Geomys bursarius). These burial mounds being usually located upon the highest and dryest portion of a region offer special inducements for these troublesome rodents to appropriate them for their domiciles, which they often have done. The charcoal found in the mound on Mr. Capron's farm, as well as in this mound, was of a very fine grained compact wood, differing widely from the oak.

Judging from the great difference (in many respects) in the mode of burial, the state of preservation of the bones, etc., it seems not improbable that they are the remains of a different tribe of the mound builders from those who erected the line of mounds, and that the interments were made at a period considerably prior to those interments in the line. The material of all the mounds, except the charcoal and burned clay mentioned, is a black homogenous drift soil, such as everywhere occupies the surface of the region. No "dugholes," ditches or excavation of any kind (with perhaps three exceptions) were observed near or adjacent to the mounds, from which earth might have been taken for their construction. A little southwest from the south end of this line of mounds, and on the border of quite a deep depression, is an extensive earthwork or fortification built by the people who erected the mounds. A few feet easterly from this earthwork is an ancient burial mound similar to those already described. Some years ago a partial exploration of this mound was made, and human bones, etc, discovered. Some distance to the west of this mound, and in the heavy timber, is an Indian grave, and another one exists still farther north in the same woods.

Around this old earthwork a fierce battle was once fought. This is conclusively shown by the great number of arrow and spear points, stone hatchets, groved and ungroved, etc, found here. It is very likely the case that many who found a resting place in these old mounds here fell in this fight. Near the earthwork, part of an ancient stone ax was found broken in two at the center, and 30 rods away the other half was found. Mr. Pearson has very kindly presented me with many of these most interesting relics found here by him, they being mainly found on his farm.

About one third of a mile to the southeast from this fortification, is a group of three ancient mounds of the usual size and dimensions, save the center one, which is large and long. In the westerly mound was found human bones, pottery, etc., and a fine, dark red vace or bowl, entirely perfect, save for a few small notches in the rim.

Only a superficial examination was made of the last mound, which revealed no relics.

In the northern end of the long mound was found, at its base, and on a level with the surrounding surface, human bones, great quantities of charcoal, etc., as well as a large and perfect arrow shaft straightener, unlike anything I had ever before seen. In many respects this mound was one of much interest. This group was located on the high and quite steep banks (and a short distance back from its margin) of what was at that early day the bank of the Cedar river, but now occupied by ponds. It is a beautiful and commanding position. A little way to the south of these mounds were once several Indian graves, hereafter to be spoken of, as well as other graves to the north.

About eight miles to the northeast from Charles City, on the southwest part of the northwest quarter of section 36, township 96, range 15, Floyd County, an ancient earthwork or fortification occurs on the east side of the Little Cedar river. The topography of the region in the immediate vicinity of this stream is broken and possessed of considerable beauty of natural scenery. The valley of this stream is from one-fourth to one-half mile in width, and its sides rise to a height of from 50 to 300 feet above the stream. This fortification is located about 150 feet distant from the bank of the abandoned channel of the Little Cedar river, and about the same distance from a ravine, which is located near the southeast extremity of the fortification and which is tributary to the Little Cedar. This fortification is located in the valley of the Little Cedar, the east valley side being one-fourth of a mile from it. The earthwork itself is 124 feet in length, 16 feet wide at the base, and two and three-fourths feet in height. The top is gently oval, sides gradually sloping to the base, and ends truncate. The structure runs 17 degrees west of north, and is composed of the ordinary drift soil of the region. Several excavations have been made in this earthwork by various parties, but no relics found. Flint arrow points, etc., are not infrequently found on the surface in this region. This is a work of the moundbuilders, and this form has seldom ever been seen in this part of the state.

Ancient Mounds at Floyd

On the west side of the Cedar river, one-half mile east from Floyd, are located a group of three ancient mounds. These mounds, instead of being located on the highest eminence in the region, as is most usually the case, are arranged in a slightly curved line, on a high but level space, 50 feet above and 220 yards back from the stream, and midway (from 50 to 60 rods from each) between two points which face the river, and rise from 25 to 50 feet above this level space. The ground between the mounds and the Cedar has a rather gently sloping surface.

At this point the stream makes a bend to the east, and the mounds thus occupy a position on the south side. The north side of the stream is occupied by a steep, and somewhat broken, wooded bank, which affords a limited, though beautiful, bit of scenery to this place. This area, as well as the surface of the mounds themselves, was originally possessed by a heavy growth of timber, but which was cleared away more than 30 years ago, and the soil kept under the plow ever since. These mounds are low, circular, and 20 feet distant from each other. The east, or largest mound, is 30 feet in diameter, and was originally two feet high (so reported by Mr. Sharkey, who first cleared and still owns the tract) although owing to degradation by the plow, now rises only one and one-half feet above the ground surrounding the mound. The two remaining mounds are smaller and lower than the first one. The third mound there may be some doubt expressed regarding its origin, for the reason that in the south portion of it there is imbedded a drift boulder, weighing some seven or eight hundred pounds. This boulder, however, may have been placed here by human hands in the long ago; or the mound may have been an intrusion upon the stone. A partial exploration of the two smaller mounds was made, but without discovering anything. On making a thorough exploration of the larger mound, however the remains of five human bodies was found; bones, even those of the fingers, toes, etc., being for the most part in a good state of preservation.

First, a bowl-shaped excavation had been made, extending down three and three fourths feet below the surface of the ground around the mound, and the bottom of this macadamized with gravel and fragments of limestone. On the center of this floor five bodies were placed in a sitting posture (afterwards

more or less crushed down by weight of earth from above), with the feet drawn under them, and apparently facing the north. First above the bodies was a thin layer of earth, next above this was nine inches of earth and ashes, among which was found two or three small pieces of fine grained charcoal. Nearly all the remaining four feet of earth had been changed to a red color by the continued action of fire. All the material of the mound above and around the bodies had been made so hard that it was with great difficulty that an excavation could be made, even with the best of tools. The soil around the bodies had been deeply stained by the decomposition of the flesh. The first (west) body was that of an average sized woman, in middle life. Six inches to the east of this was the skeleton of a babe. To the north, and in close proximity to the babe, were the remains of a large, aged individual, apparently that of a man. To the east and south of the babe were the bodies of two young, though adult, persons. The bones of the woman in their detail of structure, indicated a person of low grade, the evidences of unusual muscular development being strongly marked. The skull of this person was a wonder to behold, it equaling, if not rivaling, in some respects, in inferiority of grade, the famous "Neanderthal skull." The forehead (if forehead it could be called) was very low, much lower and more animal-like than in the "Neanderthal" specimen. This skull is quite small for an adult individual. The inner portion of the brow ridges are slightly prominent (animal-like). The distance from the lower portion of the nasal bone to the upper margin of the eye cavities, is only four centimeters. The distance between the eye sockets, at a joint midway between the upper margin of the eye cavities and the lower portion of the nasal bone, is two and three-fourths centimeters. One of the jaws containing well preserved teeth, was found. The jaw was rather strong, but the teeth only moderately so. We were at first inclined to consider the strange form of this skull as due to artificial pressure while living, but a critical examination of it revealed the fact that it was normal, i. e. not having been artifically deformed. The teeth of the babe were very small, and the skull thick, even for an adult person. The next skeleton was that of a man nearly six feet in height. The crowns of all the teeth had been very much worn down, some of them even down to the bone of the jaw.

As before stated, the remaining bodies were those of young adult persons, the skull of one of which was small for a full grown individual. No relics of any description were found with the human remains in this mound. This burial appeared to be a very ancient one, the limestone fragments in the floor of the excavation being nearly, if not quite, all decomposed. In other mounds opened on the same stream at Charles City, five or six miles below, fragments of the same limestone were not infrequently found, but in no case was decomposition visible, except as a thin outer crust, although the human bones, which were usually more or less abundant, were in no case very well preserved, but, on the contrary, often nearly or entirely decomposed.

The fine preservation of the remains in the mound at Floyd, was due to the method of burial; this being evidenced by the fact that over a small portion of one of the bodies the earth had not been so thoroughly packed, and as a consequence, the bones were almost entirely decomposed, while the other portions of the body, over which the soil had been very firmly packed were well preserved. Judging from all facts gathered, it seems not improbable to suppose that this represented a family burial. The question has been raised, "How was it that these five persons were all buried at the same time, they being still in the flesh." As we have no reason to suppose that these ancient people possessed any means for preserving for any length of time in the flesh, the bodies of their dead, it seems plausible to suppose that these individuals were all swept off at about the same time by some pestilence, or else that upon the death of some dignitary of the tribe or people (perhaps represented by the remains of the old man) the other members of the family were sacrificed, similar to the custom which has prevailed among some ancient tribes or races of historic times.

On the same stream, a short distance to the southeast of this mound, two or three other mounds occur, a partial exploration of which revealed human bones, etc

Ancient Mounds at Old Chickasaw.

On the west side of the Little Cedar river, about one and one-half miles below Old Chickasaw, Iowa, are located ten mound-builder mounds.

The same locality, by disease, war, emigration, or other causes, may have been depopulated and again re-peopled by other races, each of which in its turn may have erected mounds for burial purposes, religious purposes, points of observation, or for other uses. The word mound builders, therefore, as generally used, is calculated to lead to error by the implication that the habit of mound building was peculiar to one prehistoric race. In this paper the term mound-builder is applied to that prehistoric race (doubtless represented by numerous tribes) which, in ancient times, occupied much of that region now comprised within the bounds of the United States. In the light of recent discoveries, it is difficult to say what portion of the so called "Mound-builder race" was not identical with the red indians.

The mounds near Old Chickasaw are situated upon the border of the first terrace of the stream, which rises from twenty to forty five feet above the flood plain at its base. Back from the first terrace two hundred and sixty yards, is a second terrace, which rises sixteen or eighteen feet above the first one.

The country back from this terrace increases gradually in height until within three-fourths of a mile it has attained an elevation varying from twenty feet to more than one hundred feet above the last bench.

About two hundred and sixty yards to the southwest from the mounds, a never-failing spring of water issues forth from the base of the second terrace, and a short distance below a second one rises from the same region.

This entire region was formerly occupied by a heavy growth of timber; but much of it has now been cleared away by the settlers in opening up farms. The limited view (owing to the presence of timber) obtained from the site of these mounds, although pleasing, is yet far inferior to the beautiful and extensive scene afforded from the elevated land back from the short distance.

All the mounds of this series are circular, with oval tops, and have a diameter varying from twenty-two feet to fifty-one feet, and a height of from one and three-fourths feet to five feet.

The distance between the different mounds is variable, being from two feet to fifty feet.

The main line of mounds runs north a few degrees east. The remaining mounds are located approximate to and run parallel with the main line. In the center of the first mound examined (No 3) three human skeletons were found.

These bodies, many of the bones of which were in a good state of preservation, had been placed on the original surface in a sitting posture, and the mound reared over them.

The first body sat facing the east, and the second one directly in front, with knees nearly touching, facing the first one.

A few inches to the north of No. 1 a third one had been placed, apparently facing the east. The crania of all three individuals showed an extremely low grade of mental development; the foreheads being, in one case, even lower than in the specimen found in the Floyd mound, which was figured and described by the writer in a paper on "Ancient Mounds at Floyd, Iowa," that appeared in the American Naturalist.

The upper anterior portion (back of the eyes) of one of the crania under consideration was quite narrow, but rather rapidly expanded postero-laterally. That portion of the frontal bone forming the upper part of the eye sockets attained a height only from four to seven mm; and then sloped abruptly backward, forming a slightly concave area back of and above the eyes. This cranium, as well as the others obtained from this mound, was smaller (the largest 6¼x5), than the Neanderthal skull.

One of the individuals was apparently that of a woman in middle life, while the body on the left was that of an aged person.

The first one and one-half feet of material above the remains was a mixture of earth and ashes, made very hard, with a few small pieces of charcoal scattered through it.

The remaining three and one-half feet of material composing the mound was a yellow, clayey soil, unlike anything found on the surface in this vicinity.

Five feet below the surface of mound No. 4, and resting on the natural surface of the ground, were the remains of two persons which had been buried in a sitting position

Some of the larger bones of the bodies were in a good state of preservation; the crania, however, were too badly crushed and decomposed to allow of a reconstruction of their parts.

The structure and size of the bones of these individuals indicated persons of great muscular development, and showed them to have been at least six feet in height.

The first three and one-fourth feet of the mound above the remains was yellow earth and ashes, made very hard, probably by tramping and the use of water.

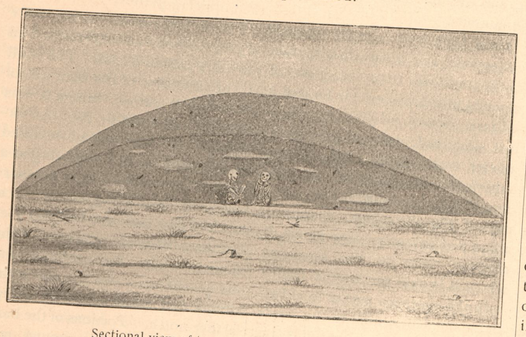
The remaining one and three-fourths feet of material was yellow earth not packed.

Scattered through the mound were numerous pieces of oak charcoal.

In various parts of the mound were local deposits or "patches" of ashes, and underneath them thin, deeply-stained layers of ashes and earth, having the appearance of being stained by the decomposition of flesh.

In mound No. 9 were found the remains of four bodies.

The teeth and bones of two of these individuals showed them to have been well advanced in years,



Sectional view of typical mound near Old Chickasaw.

while the third body was that of a person of middle age, and the fourth that of a subject somewhat younger.

The lower jaw of one of these individuals was very large and strong, with the angles much straightened. All the teeth, with one exception, were well preserved, although much worn on the crowns.

One large molar, which was otherwise sound, had a decayed cavity in the cervix 3 mm. in diameter.

Although we have personally examined the teeth of many mound-builders, this is almost the first example of decayed teeth belonging to these people which has come under our observation. Another interesting and finely preserved lower jaw obtained from this mound had a breadth, measuring from exterior to exterior, at the angles, twelve and one half centimeters.

This maxillary had apparently been fractured during life, and this may perhaps account, in part, for its great width.

The angle of the jaw was very low and much straightened.

At the time of death only the incisors and canines remained; all the other teeth had been lost, and the alveolar processes either wholly or in part absorbed.

All the bodies had been placed in a sitting posture in the center of the mound, on a small hillock, one and one-half feet in height, composed of ashes and earth

Although all the bodies had been buried in the flesh, still a portion of the skull of one individual had been much charred by fire before being placed in the mound.

The first one and one-fourth feet of material composing the mound was soft, yellow earth, similar to that constituting the other mounds; and the remaining one and three fourths feet was of the same material, mixed with ashes, and made quite hard.

Disseminated through the mass were a few small pieces of charcoal

In mound No. 10, which was about 45 feet in diameter and three feet in height, was discovered the remains of three persons, the bones being in a better state of preservation than in any of the other mounds of the group explored.

First, there had been reared, from the ordinary black surface soil of the vicinity, a small hillock, one foot in height; and on this were placed in a sitting posture, with the feet drawn under them, the three bodies.

One finely preserved lower jaw found in this mound was very massive and broad, and contained large finely preserved teeth. The teeth in this specimen were all worn quite flat upon the crowns, and this remark applies to the incisors and canines, as well as cuspids and bicuspids.

In this case it is shown that the masticating surface of the upper jaw fitted perfectly that of the lower one.

The incisor teeth did not lap, but impinged on each other at their cutting edges, like the molars. This form of teeth is not peculiar to the mound-builders, however, but is characteristic of savage races generally.

The material composing this mound, although analogous to that of other mounds of the series, was not packed around the bodies.

It was plainly evident that much less care was exercised in this burial than in any of the others. Gathered facts, moreover, demonstrate that this mound, as well as some of the others, was erected long anterio to Nos. 3 and 4. Some years ago mound No. 2 was graded down by R. H. Gordon (on whose farm all the mounds are located) in making an excavation for a cellar.

The structure of the mound was similar to that of No. 4, although much smaller. On the original surface had been placed, in a sitting posture, one or two bodies.

The crania and many bones of the bodies are reported to have been in a good state of preservation.

Mound No. 1 is now 22 feet in diameter and one foot in height; but owing to the fact of its having been cultivated over for more than 10 years, its original height has been somewhat reduced and its diameter slightly increased.

A few inches above the surface which environed the mound was discovered, upon exploration, a thick bed of charcoal, and a log over eight feet in length and 12 inches in diameter, which had been thoroughly burned.

This coal was mostly in a fine state of preservation. The wood used was of the same species of oak as now occupies the surface of the region. In this mound was observed scarcely a trace of ashes.

From all the evidence gained it was plain to be seen that this was not a place of sepulture; but, on the contrary, was a place where wood was burned for the purpose of obtaining ashes to aid in the construction of at least some of the burial mounds.

No fire had been used on any of the burial mounds examined, both the charcoal and ashes found in them having been brought in from some other place.

All the remains found in the mounds had been buried in the flesh, the earth in contact with the bodies being deeply stained by their decomposition.

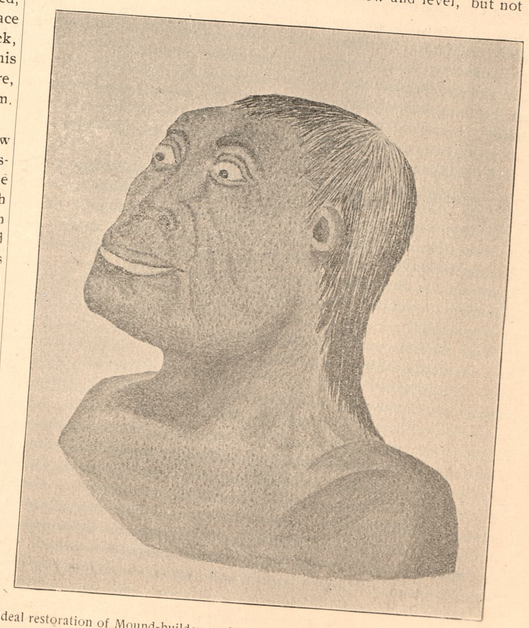
As before stated, the earth from which the mounds were constructed was a yellow, clayey material, unlike that of the surface of the region, and had been brought in from some other place, at a greater or less distance from the mounds.

No relics of any description were found with the bodies exhumed, and as for field relics, none are reported from the region. Since the above was first written, the finding of Indian graves containing many relics, is reported.

Owing to the lack of time, mounds Nos. 5 to 8 have not, as yet, been explored

Ancient Mounds on Flood Creek.

About the center of the southeast quarter of section 5, township 95, range 17 north, and a half mile west from Flood Creek, in the western part of Floyd County, a peculiar mound is located. The topography of the country immediately adjoining this creek, in this region, is rather low and level, but not us-



Ideal restoration of Mound-builder, as found occuring at Floyd and Old Chickasaw.

ually wet. This mound is situated on the margin of a belt of timber, bordering a low, wet depression of the general surface of the land. It was about 16 feet in diameter, and one foot high at the center, with a circular basilor outline and flat top, except a rounded ridge eight or 10 inches high and a foot wide at the base, which occupied the outer edge of the surface area. All round the base was a trench, about 10 inches deep and one foot wide, from which earth had, no doubt, been taken to form the ridge, and, in fact the mound itself. The surface of the mound was densely covered by poplars, wild plums and hazlebrush. Mr. Merton, T. Web ster and the writer together made a partial exploration of this mound by extending an excavation part of the way through it, two feet wide and one and one-half ieet deep, with the following result: 1st, there was a layer of decomposed plant remains and earth, and then a layes of charcoal then a bed of ashes, and afterwards a layer of soil. Below this layer of soil was another bed ot charcoal and ashes, occupying the same position relative to each other as those above. This bed of ashes rested directly upon the natural surface of the ground, which did not show any particular evidence of strong heat. A careful examination of the charcoal, which was mostly in large pieces and finely preserved. convinced us that the fuel had been largely poplar wood No burned bones or remains of artificial objects were found. A few feet from this structure is another mound, which in form and size is about like the first one, but here the similarity entirely ceases A partial exploration of this mound was made by Mr Merton T. Webster.

Ancient Mounds at Rockford,

On a broad level area, back to the west a few rods from the pre cipitous valley side of the Shell Rock river, in the northern portion of Rockford, is a line of five mound-builder mounds.

These mounds occur in a straight line, running northwest and southeast. The general outline of the mounds are circular, or nearly so, and have oval tops. They vary in height from one and a half to slightly over two feet, and are from 38 to 50 feet in diameter. and from 16 to over 100 feet distant from one another. One mound had a diameter of 38 by 45 feet. The two southeast mounds were removed perhaps (estimated) 300 feet or more from the balance of the line. These five mounds are all of this group now left; but originally there were several others extending to the northwest and forming a part of this line. They have now become obliterated through long cultivation of the ground. This is a beautisul and sightlv region; in fact the most sightiy of any region in this portion of the valley. From this point an extensive and beauti ful view can be had in ail directions, save to the southeast, where it is now cut off by the timber. The river bed in former times ran along close to the foot of a pre cipitous bluff near these mounds, but it now has its channel a quarter of a mile farther east on the opposite side of the valley. The first mound explored (aided by Mr. Merton, T. Webster and John Waller, of Rockford) which was the second one from the north, was slightly over two feet in height. At a depth of two and one-half feet, very hard packed earth was reached and this continued down to a depth of slightly more than four and one-halt feet below the top of the mound. The last two feet of earth was flesh-stained. At the depth of four and one half feet below the top of the mound, a stone arrow point was discoved; and this lay on the hard sand and gravel which formed the base of the mound, and repre sented the original soil. Excava tions were carried down to a depth of slightly more than five feet below the surface of the mound, and down into the original underlying soil, This was a true burial mound, the body having been placed here in the flesh. Doubtless the reason why the contents of this and other mounds of this region were not better preserved, was due to the fact that all these structures were erected on the coarse sand and gravel which occupies this entire valley here, and which allows water to percolate through it.

There had first been made here a shallow excavation two feet in depth, and the body placed in it, and then the mound reared over all.

No excavation of any kind was seen in the vicinity of the mounds; thus showing that the material composing the mounds had been scraped from the surface around or else been brought in from a distance.

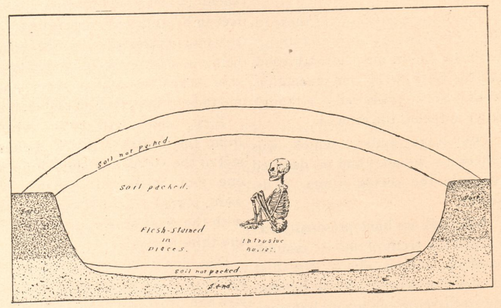
The second mound explored was also a burial mound like the first one, and was 48 feet in diameter and 23 inches in height. At about the center of the mound and at a point nearly on the level with the ground around the mound, there was discovered portions of human leg bones as well as those of the arms, together with a tooth. The rest of the body had disappeared. There was also some bones of a small rodent, doubtless those of a pocket gopher.

Portions of the earth in this mound had been somewhat backed by the builders of this structure. In none of the mounds here explored, had there been placed relics of any consequence capable of resisting decay and destruction, save the one arrow point mentioned. The burial customs of these old people had apparently been quite simple aside from the labor necessary to the erection of these earth en mounds.

On a high level area on the east valley side, and about half a mile to the northeast from the group of mounds just described, is located a solitary mound, similar to those just described, only of greater diameter and height. Only a very superficial exploration of this mound has yet been made. This mound, like the others, commands a fine and extensive view in all directions, save to the southeast, where it is shut out by the timber.

In the southern part of Rockford, and about half a mile to the southeast of the group of mounds just described, is a solitary burial mound. It is circular, oval, 38 feet in diameter and two and one-fourth feet in height at the center. This mound is located on a high level area, overlooking and forming the high north bank of Lime Creek This structure is about 70 yards back from and perhaps 38 to 40 feet above, the bed of the stream and commands an extensive and pleasing view around. A part of this mound had, a few years ago, been "dug down" in excavating for the railroad bed at this place. The workmen at this time found a human skeleton placed in a sitting posture facing the east, as shown in the following plate.

The skeleton was in a fine state of preservation, and represented an intrusive Indian burial. The skull is, (in part) now in the high school cabinet at Rockford, where it was seen and examined by me. An excavation of the mound revealed hard-packed earth, beginning at a depth of 22 inches below the surface, and continuing down to a depth of four and one-half feet below the surface of the center of the mound; where the original sand and gravel was struck, as in the mound first described in the group farther north, Portions of the hard packed earth of this mound was flesh-stained, showing the original burial was in the flesh.



Sectional view of burial mound at Rockford, Iowa.

In no case in any of the mounds in this region, was there evidence that cremation had been practiced, or that fire had been used in any of the burial ceremonies. The soil of which this burial mound had been constructed, had been scraped from the surface near by.

In this case, as in the one already described occurring farther north, an excavation had been scooped out in the original soil, two and one-half feet deep, the body placed in the center of it, and the mound then built over it. At the bottom, and center of the mound, fragments of human leg bones were found, also human bones were discovered about three and one half feet below the surface of the structure. All other bones had disappeared through the lapse of time. With the bones was a flint spall. About 100 yards to the west of this mound, another mound containing a well preserved human skeleton (doubtless that of an Indian) was discovered by some workmen at a period sometime prior to the time of the exploration of the mound just described; the details of this discovery however, I did not obtain.

In this same vicinity, and a little to the west, numerous other mounds formerly existed, but have since become obliterated through human agency since the town was built. In some of them, most interesting and peculiar stone implements have been discovered, some of which we have examined and made drawings of.

Mounds in the Dumbolton Woods.

Continuing up Lime Creek about a mile and a half northwest from Rockford, a group of three ancient mounds are met with on a quite high area (perhaps 40 feet above the stream) on the north side of, and back a few rods from, the stream. These mounds are situated on a level elevated ridge which runs parallel with the stream. The surface everywhere is covered with quite dense timber, and this region has always been occupied by one of the heaviest belts of timber in the western portion of the county. The sight of the mounds is beautiful though not a very commanding one. These mounds are circular, flat on top, vary from 32 to 40 feet in diameter, and assume a height of two to two and a half feet. But for the dughole between mounds one and two (in order of description) their bases would touch. The third mound, however, is 24 feet northwest of mound No. 2. These mounds are so inconspicuous, covered with leaves and plants, that people passing over them from time to time during the past 40 years have never suspected their origin; or in fact paid any attention to them whatever.

It may be proper here to state that Mr. Merton T. Webster, of Rockford, assisted in the exploration of these, as well as most of the other mounds in the western portion of the county, and much credit is due him for the enthusiasm and intelligent interest manifested in the work.

Near the center of the first mound explored, and nine inches below the surface, a large dish was discovered, which had been in part crushed by the weight of earth upon it after being placed here. It, however, was in such shape as to allow of its being restored, more or less, completely. The dish had been placed here bottom up. From a point about four inches below the surface of the mound, the dirt had been packed quite hard. Below the first dish, pottery and charcoal continued to be found. In most all cases the concave side of the pottery was up. At a depth of 18 inches below the top of the mound, very hard packed earth and ashes was encountered; and at this depth and two feet east of the first dish discovered, fragments of human bones were found, together with a flint spall and fragments of charcoal. All bones had been split and fractured before having been placed in the mound. Small flat lime stones were found in different places and at one point a hearth or platform of flat limestones was found that had been made red by heat This platform was composed of eight pieces of limestone placed close together, and each was two inches thick. This structure was located about half way between the center of the mound, and its eastern margin. A little to the northwest of the center of the mound an igneous boulder, weighing perhaps 50 pounds, had been placed A few inches to the northwest of this boulder, and two inches below it, was quite a large deposit of bright red, burned earth over a foot in thickness. Pieces of limestone had been placed in this mound—and averaging about four feet apart—to represent the four corners. All the relics found (unless otherwise stated) were on about the same level, and had been placed here, and arranged by the old builders of this monument.

Fire had been employed in some way in connection with the rearing of this mound. At the base, and on the north side of this mound, a large dughole existed. It is one and a half feet deep, ten to twelve feet long, and has a width at the west end or widest part, of ten feet. The material for the construction of this mound, and perhaps for the others also, was obtained here. Ten inches below the surface of the second mound, packed earth was reached. All relics were found approximately 15 inches below the surface of the mound. To the northeast and southeast of the center of this mound, flat pieces of burned limestone, layed flat, were encountered. These two corners were three feet apart. Three feet to the west of the northeast corner, was found a large rude stone implement, and a short distance to the north and southwest of this implement, and north of the northeast corner stone, were human bones which had been split and broken. All relics had been placed, when possible, flat-side down. All material used in the erection of these mounds was rich black aluvial soil.

The first ten inches of the third mound was loose, unpacked earth but below this the earth had been somewhat packed. Scattered all through this, from the surface down, was much broken pottery—large and small pieces —some ashes, considerable charcoal, flint spears, broken human bones, etc. In the northwest corner of the mound was a small flat limestone burned red on both sides To the south and southeast of this was pottery and human bones. Some feet to the east of the northwest corner of the mound was a platform, or hearth, composed of five flat pieces of limestone burned red on each side, and near it was broken pottery and fragments of human bones A few feet south of this platform, and joining the southeast corner, was a large and heavy, perfect, morter or metate, turned bottom-side up. Under this was broken pottery, and a bone at the south end. This metate, or morter, would weigh in the neighborhood of 50 pounds, and had a fine, smooth, concave grinding surface This is the finest example of its kind I have so far seen, and the only example known (so far as I am aware) to be taken from the mounds in northern Iowa. This old stone mill is practically the same, and was used in esentially the same way, as the old metate I have so often found in exploring the ancient ruined cities and cliff dwellings of Mexico, and other regions of the southwest A mano, or hand stone, was used by these old people in grinding their corn (for corn was at this remote period cultivated by them) and acorns, the same as the ancient races of Mexico. This metate was made from a hard granite boulder.

Mounds at Hackberry.

A few miles farther up Lime Creek, at Hackberry, an interesting mound occurs. This mound occupies a position on the edge of a bluff, which at this place rises abruptly to a height of 70 feet above the water in the stream, and commands a beautiful and extensive view of the region to the north, northwest, and east. By the caving away of portions of this bluff about two thirds of this mound has been destroyed; but, judging from the position still remaining, it must have been, originally, about 15 feet in diameter. and from one and one-half to two feet in height, circular at the base, and with a gently rounded top. Excavations revealed a horizontal layer of broken pottery, the fragments almost always lying with the concave side upward. The surface of the pottery had been ornamented by rude impressions, and had been broken before being placed in the mound This pottery occupied a position slightly below the natural surface of the ground around the mound Associated with the pottery were numerous flint arrow points (finished and unfinished), of various designs. In the extreme southern portion of the mound, and occupying a position a few inches above the layer of broken pottery, were several plates from the lower portion of the carapace of a turtle. It is possible that these plates may have gained this position long subsequent to the formation of the mound. No human bones or other relics than those mentioned, were found.

About half a mile to the southeast from Rockford, and on the high east bank of the stream, though some little distance back from it, occurs a burial mound. This was partially explored by two parties from Rockford; and among other things discovered, were human bones, a bead or two, etc. A thorough exploration of this by competent parties, would have revealed facts of great scientific interest.

Mounds on the Bumgardner Farm.

Passing up the Shell Rock about four and one-half miles above Rockford, to the Bumgardner farm, we came to a very interesting group of ancient mounds. They are four or five in number, and are located in the heavy timber, on the high south bank of a small creek just above its confluence with the Shell Rock. The surface here gradually slopes to the west and north. These mounds are closely grouped, save one, which is located perhaps 40 rods farther south. The description of the size, shape, etc., of the mounds in the Dumbolten timber, will in a general way, suffice for these. One of these mounds, however, has a broadly rounded top; and the others have a flat or strongly concave top; and in one instance about the only indication of a mound at all, is a slight rim of earth three or four inches high on the south side. These mounds on exploration, yielded facts of special scientific importance; but a detailed description of them cannot at this time be undertaken here.

Many relics were found in these mounds; and they occurred from the surface down to a depth of six to perhaps twenty-four inches. In one or two cases the earth, was in part, packed quite hard, but in the other cases the earth was soft and loose as in the woods around. The material composing these structures was scraped from the surface in

the immediate vicinity.

In some cases, fire had been used in these mounds; and in all more or less ashes and charcoal was found (in some of these was large quantities of charcoal) Occasionally red burned earth was found. The wood used was such as today grows in the vicinity. In most of these mounds flat slabs and pieces of limestone —often burned red—had been placed at the four corners, like those on Lime Creek just described. In these mounds were found arrow points of different materials, shapes, sizes and designs, also several arrow-shaft straighteners made of a coarse yellowish-brown sandstone; very large quantities of pottery, which had purposely been more or less broken, and representing dishes which would hold perhaps two or three gallons, down to those capable of holding less than a common teacup. The pattern, ornamentation and design of this pottery was most interesting, and some of it unlike any I have elsewhere observed from the mounds. The abundance of different cord and fabric marked pottery was very noticeable. Human remains also was found; the teeth of some of them showing them to have been old individuals; while others demonstrated that the grim invincible reaper, death, had thrust in his sickle among the young; for the teeth of some showed them to have been not over twelve or fourteen years of age at the most. Stone relics, etc., were found here. In some of these mounds fires had been made; this being shown by the ashes, charcoal and burned earth.

One mound, as we have stated was revealed mainly by the little rim or ridge on its south side; and in fact was not a mound at all, although a little earth had been thrown up and over the large quantities of pottery occurring from the surface down to a depth of six or eight inches. Why these relics were not covered by at least a fair sized mound, instead of covering them with a mere handful of earth as it were, is hard to say. But other and similar examples are known to occur further down this stream.

Continuing up the Shell Rock to Rock Grove about a mile and a half, perhaps, we find here in the heavy timber at different places (and at times quite a distance east from the stream) Indian graves; some of which are merely linea mounds (at least now) of limestone. At other points in the timber between Rock Grove and Nora Springs, other Indian graves occur. Just north of the Grist mill on the Shell Rock, in the northwest part of the town of Nora Springs is an Indian grave. It is located on a rather high point on the north side of a creek just above its tunction with the river. It is of the size and general appearance of a grave of the whites.

A partial exploration of it was made by a friend of the writers, but only red burned earth was found; although much more, perhaps, might have been discovered if a thorough exploration had been made.

Across the river from this point, there is quite a broad level area forming the flood plain of the stream. Here there doubtless was at one time either an Indian village site or a battle ground. This would seem to be the case at least, judging from the number of arrow points found here, as well as other evidence secured.

Ancient Mounds Near Marble Rock.

Passing down the Shell Rock to a point about two miles northwest from Marble Rock, we came to a group of twenty mounds situated on the east side of the river. These mounds are arranged in a broad straight group running nearly east and west. This is the first, or south group of mounds in this region.

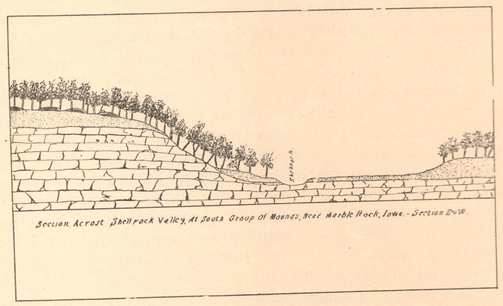
About 80 or 90 rods to the north by northwest of the first group, there is another group of mounds, situated on the same side of the stream, and numbering 12 in all. This group is arranged in three parallel lines, running nearly east and west. The first or north line, consists of two mounds; the second line has three mounds; and the third line is divided into two parts, consisting of three mounds each. The twelfth mound is located a few rods to the southeast of the east end of the last line.

The third group consists of 13 mounds, and is located on the north side of a narrow but deep valley through which a little creek flows—dry part of the year—and located about half a mile to the northeast of the second group.

The mounds of these three groups are all located in heavy timber, and trees and brush often occupy their surface. All these mounds are of the greatest interest, and in some cases have yielded results such as I have never before known of. Only a very general description of them and their contents can here be given.

The south group of mounds are situated on the high bank forming the east side of the river here. The surface is uneven being somewhat cut by narrow and wide drainage defiles. The region is a wild and most beautiful one, and it is plain to be seen that because of this (at least one reason for it) this locality was sought by these strange people as a place of repose for their dead. To the west, and across the river, is a broad flood plain, bordered by heavy timber. From these mounds occasional glimpses through the trees may be caught of the beautiful region beyond.

In most all cases these mounds are circular in outline, and almost invariably more of less deeply concave on top; this condition being produced by throwing up much dirt around the margins, thus forming broad and high rims. This feature is the prevailing one in nearly all the mounds in this region; although these are comparatively more



Sectional view of valley, showing position of mounds of south group, near Marble Rock, Iowa.

flattened or round-topped mounds in the northeast group. A description of the south group will here suffice for all three groups in this vicinity. The mounds are so much alike in nearly all things—save in some details—that it goes to prove conclusively that the people who built the south group, also reared all the other mounds in this region; and that their customs were identical and wonderfully closely (in the main) adhered to in the construction of these monuments, etc. Everywhere among the mounds of the south group there are dug holes and ditches from which earth was taken in the construction of these mounds. The dugholes vary from five to 15 feet or so in diameter, and the ditches from five to 20 feet long. Both the ditches and the holes assume a depth varying from six inches to two feet. This feature, however, is not so noticeable in the other two groups of mounds. Because of these excavations, the surface among the mounds is extremely uneven.

In a few cases the mounds are so close to one another that they "run together;" but usually they are ten feet apart. The marginal height of these mounds vary from one to two feet, and the diameter varies also from 20 to 44 feet. The depth of the depressions which occur in the center of nearly all these structures, vary from one and one-half inch to 45 inches. In most all cases flat limestones were placed in the four corners of the mounds; and their arrangement was usually quite uniform. If limestones did not always mark the corners, then they would be represented by pottery or stone relics, or by deposits of burned earth, etc. All this was the result of design, and the outgrowth of some religious custom or observance. The uniformity or constancy of this custom in all the groups here, was very surprising. This same custom was adhered to in the erection of the mounds at Bumgardner's and Dumbolten's, as already described.

The soil in some of the mounds was packed, but in others not. In very many cases broken stone implements (usually rude ones) were scattered through the mounds. And the number of rude stone tools—usually rubbing stones—was wonderful. Nearly every mound contained from one to many of them, and all had been used. They were usually made from natural drift boulders of small size which suited their purpose and assumed

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about the shape desired. They were picked up from the surface. Sometimes large pieces or slabs of limestone, sometimes burned red, were set up edgewise in the corners. Almost invariably all relics found would be discovered inside of these four corners; and so uniformly was this the case, that we could almost invariably indicate were relics—if any occurred—would be found, before hand. As before stated, never before in all my experience in this work, have I seen burial customs so uniformly adhered to. Another peculiarity of these mounds, or the relics discovered in them, was the great number of what we will call flint knives (by some called spalls). In every mound here explored there was found from one to a dozen or more. In one mound the larger part of a fine sandstone morter or metate was found, and in another mound near by, another portion of the same morter was discovered. These two mounds must have been erected at the same time. But perhaps the class of relics the most abundant was the pottery. This represented a greater variety of form, shapes, designs, and character of ornamentation, than I have ever before seen from any portion of this state. The cord and fabric marked pottery was perhaps the most abundant. Most of the dishes had been broken before, or at the time, they were placed in the mounds. In many cases, however, the dishes could in whole or in part be restored. These vessels varied greatly in size, some being large while others were very small, and all had been much used.

In one case a quite large, perfect dish was found. In some of the mounds, and in fact most of them, fragments of human bones were discovered. Seldom, if ever, was any relics found deeper down than the level of the surface of the ground around the mounds. In one mound there was discovered a deposit of bones. All those of any size had been split and broken. Many of them were bones of large and small animals, and fish; also the bones and a large prong of a deers horn, fish scales, etc. There were hundreds of these bones in this deposit. In other mounds perfectly preserved elk teeth, part of a beavers skull, clam shells, and many other things, were discovered. Arrow points, spear points, etc., etc., also were procured. Ashes, charcoal and burned earth were frequently met with. In one or two of the mounds roasted hickory-nuts (bitternuts), such as now grow in the vicinity, was discovered.

In some respects mound No. 19 is the most interesting. This is situated at the east end of the group; is circular, 17 inches in height and 32 feet in diameter. The northwest portion of the top of the mound was slightly flattened. Near the center of the mound was a great stump, now badly decayed. This alone shows that this mound is very old, for the size of the stump demonstrates that the tree lived here and grew for many long years, and it has also been dead for a long period. Aside from this none can tell how much time elapsed between the period when the mound was reared and the time this old tree first began its growth here. In the south part of this mound a human body had been buried (apparently laid at full length, and extending nearly east and west). It had been placed on the original surface, and a handful of corn placed at the east end of the body, together with bitternuts. Here was also found pottery, arrow point and rubbing stone, all broken, together with human bones and charcoal. A few feet to the west of these was a collection of rubbing stones. Over this body and all the relics mentioned, a layer of clay four to five inches thick had been somewhat unevenly spread, forming a covering four and one half feet wide, eight feet long, and about eight inches high at the center or highest part, from which point it sloped to the north. The clay covering had been thoroughly mixed with grass and other plants; and after having been unevenly spread over all with the hands, a fire had been built on it and the clay thoroughly baked; giving it a deep black color in some parts and a red color in others. On top of this great clay covering, and a little east of the center, two platforms (built near together) or hearths, of thin flat limestones had been built. The rocks composing these were five to six inches long and four to five inches wide. On two sides of both these hearths, slabs of limestone had been set up edgeways. On the west part of this covering a quite large and nearly perfect dish was found, and near it and also on the covering, was broken pottery arrow point, rubbing stone, etc. Very near the hearth was the upper part of a large dish. It is possible that when the body was placed here, it was not still in the flesh.

North Group of Mounds

Of the north group, only two mounds will at this time be described. A part of the first mound had been carried away with the river bank. The mound was, in form, size, structure, etc. like most of those described in the first group. The northwest, northeast and southwest corners were marked by pieces of limestone. Fragments of limestone, some of them burned, were also found at other places, as well as many pieces of charcoal. Pottery, portions of human bones, rude stone implement, etc., were also discovered. Near the northeast corner stone, and 21 inches below the surface of the concave area occupying the surface of the mound, a rude arrow-shaft straightener made of coarse yellowish-brown sandstone (similar in material to those from the Bumgardner mounds) was discovered. All other relics were found nearer the surface then this specimen. Near the northeast corner stone and 15 inches below the surface, large animal bones were found. These were doubtless the bones of either an elk or a buffalo. Other mounds here were also explored and yielded facts of interest and value.

The most interesting mound of this group explored, however, was the one standing alone and some rods to the southeast of the main or south line. The sight of this mound is much higher than the level (local) area occupied by the main group. This mound is circular, with rounded or oval top and of the prevailing size. At the center and twelve inches below the surface of the mound, the top of a rock mound or alter was met with. This alter was composed of limestone (but few small stones were used) varying from six by twelve to 15 by 18 inches in diameter, and weighing from a few pounds to 50 or even 70 pounds. They were all carefully placed, and formed a circular oval mound two feet one inch in height and five and a half feet in diameter. There had first been thrown up a little elevation or mound of earth, and then the alter built over it. On the western portion of this alter a fire had been made, changing the rocks to a red color, and leaving a large quantity of red burned earth. So far as I am aware, this is the only alter-mound (as I shall provisionally call it) occurring in this portion of the state.

The Northeast Group.

The mounds of the northeast group are of much interest, and have yielded facts and relics of special scientific value. One mound of the usual form and size, with an oval top, is of more interest in some particulars, than any of the others. In it was found much charcoal and ashes, as well as stone relics. At one point between the center of the mound and its margin, a large deep saucer or bowl-shaped inverted dish had been made of burned clay, the material of which had been mixed with grass and plants the same as in mound No. 19 of the south group. Under this was a large quantity of ashes, charcoal, human bones, etc. The material composing the dish was perhaps two inches thick, and had been rather rudely formed with the hands. The clay had (as in mound 19) been spread over the contents of the dish while in a plostive state, and then baked hard where it was. Afterwards the mound was built over it. In mounds of this group explored, much pottery similar to that found in the other groups was obtained, as well as (in one or two cases) clam shells, etc., etc.

Other mounds, graves, earthworks, etc., not mentioned in these pages, occur in Floyd County, and at another time will be given due prominence.

Indian History of Floyd County.

Much important information and unpublished matter has been gathered by the writer regarding the Indians who once occupied this county and the northern portion of our state; and it is a source of regret that the subject cannot here be given the important consideration it deserves. But other matters also claim our attention. In Part II of this treatise, the Indians will from time to time be referred to in connection with the early pioneer history of the country. Prior to 1846, the northern portion of Iowa was occupied, at least for a long period, by the Dakotas, and the Algonquins held possession of the remaining part of Iowa and northern Missouri. The great hords from the great Algonquin family journeyed here from the east.

Of the Algonquin family the tribes known to Iowa history are Sauks, Foxes, Illinois, Pottawatamies, Ottoways and Chippeways. Of the Dakota family Sissetons, Iowas, Winnebagoes, Osages, Missouris and Omahas.

The Iowas and Winnebagoes, while originally of the Sioux (Dakotah) family, are found in such close alliance with the Algonquin family that they may be considered

as virtually belonging to the latter. In the history of Floyd County we are more especially concerned with the Winnebagoes, the Pottawattamies, and to a less extent, with the Sioux Indians.

In 1846, the Winnebago Indians relinquished their lands in Iowa, and accepted lands upon the St Peter river in Minnesota, and removed there, although continuing to hunt and occupy, to a certain extent, the lands they had relinquished in this portion of Iowa. The Pottawattamies came into western Iowa between the years 1832 and 1835, and was given 5,000,000 acres of land in the southwestern portion of the state. In 1837 they accepted lands west of the Missouri river and removed there before 1846. The Pottawattamies, today are scattered; one band of 280 being in Wisconsin, and another band ("Citizens band") being at the Sac and Fox agency in Oklahoma, and number 627, and another band ("Prairie band") is at the Pottawattamie and Great Nemaha Agency in Kansas, and number 555 souls, and still another band of 77 are at Huron, Michigan.

The Pottawattamies and Winnebagoes were friends and often visited each other, and some of the bands known so well to the early settlers of this county were often on visiting tours to each other. The Winnebagoes, like the Pottawattamies, are widely scattered now. One band of these people, numbering 1,194, are located in northeastern Nebraska, on the Omaha and Winnebago Agency, another band of 930 are in Wisconsin, and there are also a few of these Indians still in Minnesota.

When Floyd County was first settled by the whites, the Winnebagoes still lived here for long periods at a time, although a few years before this they had relinquished their rights to the land here, as before stated. In 1850 Joseph Kelly came to what is now Charles City, and was the first white man here who came with the view or permanently settling. At this time, there existed here a village of Winnebago Indians. Their wigwams numbered 150, and were located on a beautiful spot near the present sight of the stone school house on the west side of the Cedar.

For very many years this region had been a well loved one of the Indians; and none who know this beautiful valley of the Cedar will wonder at the strong attachment for it manifested by these "Children of the forest." At this time the nearest settlement was where the town of Janesville now stands, about 35 miles below what we may call the Kelly settlement—for then there was no town here. That settlement was then known as the "Lower Big Woods," and the heavy body of timber to the southeast of what is now Charles City, was know as the "Upper Big Woods." At this time there was a large Winnebago village on a small creek located near what was afterwards called Bradford. This place had been used as a village sight by these Indians for a great length of time before yielding up their rights to these lands here, and for a long time afterwards, in their journeyings up and down the streams would often stop and camp here, as in the days gone by. These people had a peculiar custom. In removing from this camp they would always leave their tent poles where they were last used, and never make use of them again. In time this sight presented the appearance of a regular forest of tepee poles.

They also had a custom of throwing the skulls, antlers, and other large bones of deer, elk, etc, in a pile by themselves, and when seen by some of the early settlers, this was a very conspicuous feature. In the heavy timber just west of Bradford, and between the "forks" of the Big and Little Cedar, these same Indians also had a camp. In the early springtime they would tap the hard maple trees and make maple sugar in their own peculiar, primitive way. On the brow of the hills, which here forms the east valley side of the Little Cedar at this place, and where a beautiful view of the surrounding region is afforded, formerly existed a Winnebago burial ground. Here more than 12 Indians were buried Their bodies were wrapped in their blankets, a quantity of provisions, their guns, and other things, supposed to be needed in the 'happy hunting ground," were placed at their sides. Over the body an inclosure was formed by driving staves into the ground obliquely on each side, meeting at the top in a Λ shaped form. As these graves were located on the prairie, no log cribe was placed around this inclosure, but instead, clods of earth were arranged all around the outside, completely covering the slabs from view save a slight portion at the top. In the heavy timber on the west side of the stream at this place numerous other graves existed. Here tight log cribs, similar to one once built near Charles City by these same people, were placed around the inner inclosure. In one instance the body of the dead was put in a rude slab coffin and placed on crotched poles, 10 feet from the ground. In another instance the body of a papoose was laid in a rough slab box, and this placed in the crotches of a tree. In another case here still, a child, perhaps 12 years of age, had died, and was placed in a rude slab box which was set on a frame of poles about five feet above the ground. When visited by the whites soon after, there was no cover or lid on the box, and whether or not there had originally been one, my informers could not say. The body had been decked out in much Indian finery, and many cheap trinkets—mainly obtained from the whites—was placed in the box with the body. The Indians in passing up and down this stream during the summer and fall "would place wisps of June grass on the graves of their dead."

At many points along both the Big and Little Cedar, from this place, old camp sites and graves, of these Indians exist. Half way between Charles City and Nashua, one or two camp sites of the Winnebagoes exists. Their trail ran up the Little Cedar, mainly on the east side, to Bassett, or a little beyond. On Beaver Creek, about a mile northwest from Bassett, was an old Winnebago camp ground. Here they hunted and trapped (just after the region was first settled) with great success.

In the west part of what is now Charles City there was, in earlier days, two Indian camps. And in the heavy timber just north of the town,—now known as "Brackett's timber"—was also a favorite camping ground of the Winnebagoes. At one time some members of this band got into a desperate fight among themselves at their camp in this timber, and one of their warriors at least was badly cut and slashed with a knife. Near the west end of Kelly street in Charles City, there once existed a group of Winnebago graves, back a few rods from the east bank of the Cedar, and on a beautiful level spot among the oaks. A short distance to the southeast from this group, and on the same side of the stream, Mr. Simmons, while digging a cellar where his residence now stands, struck an old Indian grave, and in it found some small "china" dishes manufactured by the whites. Near "Camp Idlewild," some miles above Charles City, and on the east side of the Cedar, an Indian stone grave of special interest exists, and on a level area on the north side of a small creek coming in from the west, and perhaps 40 rods southwest from the Floyd Cemetery, a group of Indian graves—in form resembling those of the whites—are located.

They are doubtless those of the Winnebagoes, for they are on a line of their old trail which ran across the county from the southwest to the northeast. Near here also, is one of their old camp sites. Other Indian graves, etc., are known to occur in portions of the county. Their trails ran up and down the various streams of the region, and sometimes across the country. On the Wapsie near Deerfield, was once fought a fierce battle between the Sioux and Winnebago tribes and also another desperate Indian battle was fought down on 'Coldwater," and doubtless between the same tribes. In the early days an Indial trail ran up the Shell Rock from the south, and passed close along the east side of the stream where is now Rockford. Another trail came in from the south, ran past the writer's early home (and often used at that time) in the east part of the present village of Rockford, and continued north, passing Osage, and continuing on to the Winnebago agency or reservation in Minnesota. Another trail also ran through Rockford and up Lime Creek, following along its north bank.

From the Intelligencer (then published by Hon. A. B. F. Hildreth) under date of February 25, 1858, I copy the following interesting article relating to the Winnebago Indian at that early date:

(A ride of 15 minutes, the other day, brought us to an encampment of the Winnebago Indian. It occupied a retired and protected spot in the Cedar river timber about one mile north of town (Charles City). The band numbering 32 all told, are a part of the once powerful tribe of Winnebagoes and are on a visit to their former hunting ground and to the graves of their kindred. As we neared the encampment, and saw the smoke curling from their wigwams, we thought of the time when beautiful Iowa was one vast wilderness, unadorned by art and unadmired by the eye of white men, and when only the Indian hunter's shout awoke the solitude. In immagination we saw him return to his lodge, loaded with the spoils of the chase, to lie down to rest. We saw him awake from sleep and gird about his loins the cruel tomahawk and scalping knife, while piercing war-whoops rang from dell to dell. We heard the red man's cry of death—the white man's shout of victory. Again we looked, and the colossal wheel was set in motion whose accelerated revolutions were to keep time with the pulsations of a new state's ambitious heart, and hurry forward the multitudinous throng who were to people Iowa's vast domains, develop her resources and build up her cities—landmarks of her liberation from the darkness of barbarism.

Applying for admission at the most conspicuous of the tents, we were given to understand that we were welcome. We found the Indians variously engaged—making fishing tackle, dressing game, cleaning guns, arranging their toilet, etc. Wapsipinicon, or "Capt. Jim," as he is familiarly called by the whites, whose acquaintance we had made some time before, coming in and recognizing us, we were invited to a seat by his side and a smoke of the "pipe of peace." This led us to be sociably inclined; so, with Capt. Jim's English and our knowledge of the Indian vernacular, we whiled away an hour in agreeable conversation. From him we learned that the Winnebago tribe were now reduced to about two thousand souls. The majority of them are on the Indian Reservation in Minnesota. Two or three of their most noted braves are now in Washington. There are nineteen chiefs in the tribe, each of whom, with his band, is in the habit of visiting the white settlements on a trading and begging tour three or four times a year. During their expeditions they seldom commit depredations of any kind, which fact secures to them many favors from the whites Their tents are constructed by enclosing poles set in the ground, forming a room of 15 or 20 feet in diameter. The top of the poles are tied together, and the sides are covered with canvas, or skins, or mats made of bark. A hole is left at the top for the smoke to escape.

Their fires are on the ground in the center of the tent, and are kept burning during day and night. Over the fire are hung large wooden hooks on which they boil their samp, roast and smoke their venison, etc. They sleep on blankets or mats spread upon the ground, with little or no protection from the cold. In winter they are rather filthy in their habits, but in summer they have more regard to cleanliness. Playing cards is a favorite pastime with the Indian and it frequently affords them much profit. They are generally more skilled in the use of the "primers" than the whites who often gamble with them. The chief of the band was absent hunting, much to our regret. He is called "Bradford" by the whites. His Indian name we did not learn. He speaks English well and can read and write. Thanking Capt. Jim for his courtesy, and shaking his hand, we bade him and his companions goodby and left.)

The Winnebagoes were formerly owners of the soil upon which Charles City is built. Here were their wigwams and here reposes the bones of their ancestors. Their principle village was upon the beautiful plateau, on the west side of the Cedar river, where the stone school house of Charles City now stands. Wapinicon ("Capt Jim") was one of their chiefs and for several years had charge of the Indian families lingering in this vicinity. He spent his time in trapping and fishing, and was a staunch friend of the white man. In 1853 he made a journey to Washington, D. C, and boasted that he dined with President Pierce. He afterwards took great delight in exhibiting a letter presented by his "great white father" wherein he is given the cognomen of "Capt. James French," and recommended to the friendship of all the Presidents "pale faced" children.

During the early years of the settlement of the Upper Cedar river valley by the whites, Wapinicons tribe was broken into fragments, and the families lived in different places among the white settlers as a protection against the relentless Sioux who waged against them perpetual warfare. Whenever a Sioux or Winnebago met one of them had to die. "White Cloud" was the great chief who had charge of all the Winnebago tribes in this region. He had his headquarters with Col. Sumner at Ft. Atkinson.

In January, 1857, an ambrotype picture was taken of Wapinicon or Wapsipinicon, (Capt. Jim) in connection with his friend John A. Y. Chapman of Charles City. At first the old chief refused to sit for his picture, on the ground that he needed better clothing. "White men dress well enough" he said. But on handing him a rifle, and his friend taking another, saying they would be hunters, he took his seat before the camera and gazed at it with intense interest. Mr. Chapman took a seat by his side and the picture was taken at once. Subsequently Capt. Jim made a present of this picture to his "friend" Mr. Hildreth.

Capt. Jim said he disliked living in Minnesota, because there "white men cheat much." Being asked if he was cheated in Charles City, he said "no; good people here—white man honest—he no cheat Indian."

His squaw was very good looking—not more than thirty-five years old, while he appeared to be fifteen years older. She maintained perfect silence unless spoken to by the chief; but their little "brave," of a dozen years, went freely about the white man's premises locking inquisitively into everything He and the other Indian boys had in some way discovered that printers types could be melted into bullets, and when these Indian boys visited the printing office they needed to be sharply watched to prevent them from stealing type from the cases.

From Capt. Jim it was learned that the Winnebago village, where Charles City now stands, was called Wa shood Ne-shun-a-ga-tah Chenug-a-da-tah, that is, Timber River Village; Shell Rock River in Indian was, Da-shou-ugh Ne-shun-a ga-tah, that is, Otter River; Lime Creek was, Lo quin Ne shun-a-ga-tah, meaning low bushes or Brush River; Cedar River was, Wa-shood Ne-shun a-ga-tah, meaning Big Timber River; Little Cedar River was, Wa-shood Ne-hun hun-a ga-tah, meaning Small Timber River; Wapsipinicon River was Sem-por-a ka-tah, meaning Ground Nuts; Turkey River was Siz-ze-ka-ta Shun-a-ga tah, that is, Wild Turkey River.

Since the Indian massacre near New Ulm, during the late war, and the removal of the Indians by government from Minnesota, the visits of the Winnebagoes to Charles City have nearly or wholly ceased, although other bands of Indians have quite often visited various portions of this county on hunting, fishing and trapping excursions, etc.

HISTORY OF

FLOYD COUNTY, IOWA.

Embracing Accounts of the Indians, Incidents and Events in the Pioneer History, Biographical Sketches, Outline of Township and Civil History, Present Development, Growth, Etc. . . . . .

PART II.

Iowa.

THE territory embraced within the present state of Iowa is but a small part of the vast domain originally discovered by French Jesuit missionaries during their numerous early incursions into the great unknown northwest, and taken possession of and annexed as French territory by right of discovery.

In the year 1763, after nearly a century of undisturbed possession, France ceeded to the Spanish government all her possessions lying west of the Mississippi river, and this vast and wonderfully rich territory remained under the management of the Spanish authorities until the beginning of the eighteenth century, when the French again came into possession of it.

In the year 1803 the treaty known as the "Louisiana purchase" was consumated, and France relinquished all her right and title to the territory beyond the Mississippi river, west to an undefined boundary.

In 1804, this great territory was divided, that part lying south of the 33rd parallel being the territory of Orleans, and that portion north of said line the district of Louisiana. In 1805 congress again made an important change, and this district became the territory of Louisiana. In December, 1812, the territory again underwent a great change, for at this time it became the territory of Missouri. In 1821, the boundaries of Missouri were defined and it was admitted as a state. This left that vast territory, of which the present states of Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota are a part, and in this condition remained until 1834, when it was attached to the territory of Michigan.

On July 3, 1838, what is now Iowa, was organized as a territory, and on the 28th day of December, 1846, the state of Iowa was admitted as the twenty-ninth state of the Federal union.

Floyd County.

Floyd county is the fourth west of the Mississippi river, in the second tier from the north line of the state, and is therefore within the section usually denominated Northern Iowa. It is somewhat less than medium size in area, as before stated, and

contains 504 square miles, or about 322,560 acres.

The county was originally square, but is now 21 miles from north to south, and 24 miles from east to west It is bounded on the north by Mitchell, on the east by Chickasaw, on the south by Butler, and on the west by Cerro Gordo counties.

The Congressional townships are 94, 95, 96, and the south half of ranges 15, 16, 17 and 18. The 43rd parallel of the north latitude runs through the county about five miles south of Charles City. The legislature, by an act approved January 15, 1851, defined the boundaries of Floyd County.

For a time after the organization of this county, it was attached to Chickasaw for judicial and revenue purposes, by the following act: "1st, That the unorganized counties in this state be and are hereby attached to organized counties as follows. to wit: Mitchell, Floyd, Howard, Worth and Franklin, to the county of Chickasaw. 2nd, When the citizens of any unorganized county desire the same organized, they may make application by petition in writing, signed by a majority of the legal voters of said county, to the judge. of the county to which such unorganized county is attached, where upon said judge shall order an election for county officers in such unorganized county."

June 21, 1854, the people of this section petitioned Judge Lyon, of Chickasaw, "to be organized into a separate and distinct county." Judge Lyon issued the order as petitioned for, and the first election for county officers accordingly took place August 7, 1854. This election took place in what was then known as "Floyd township," which embraced the whole territory of the present county, and the officers elected were qualified as the laws prescribed, Floyd county was organized. At that time Charles City (St. Charles) was a hamlet with about half a dozen houses and less than a dozen voters.

January 24, 1855, an act of the legislature was approved striking off a three-mile strip from the north side of Floyd county and adding it to Mitchell county. The territory of Floyd county belonged to what was called the "Neutral Ground," and was claimed by the Winnebagoes and Mesquakies, who refused to give up possession because the government was behind in the payment of their annieties. This matter, however, was settled in 1850, and in the fall of that year the lands were put on market, being advertised for November at Dubuque.

The first district into which any part of Floyd county was thrown on the market was called the "Turkey River District," with the land office at Dubuque. All the land in the county east of range 16 went into that district, and all west of that range went into the Des Moines district afterwards called "Fort Dodge district."

In April the legislature made a new apportionment of the Congressional Districts, the third to include the counties of Dubuque, Buchanan, Clayton, Fayette, Bremer, Chickasaw, Floyd, Mitchell, Howard, Winneshiek and Allamakee. Today Floyd county forms a part of the fourth Congressional district, and a part of the twelfth Judicial district. In 1855, however, Floyd county formed a part of the tenth Judicial district.

Division Into Townships.

The first division of this county into townships was made in October, 1854, and resulted in giving it four, namely: St. Charles, Floyd, Rock Grove and Union. On March 3, 1856, Cedar township was formed; in March 1857, Rockford and Riverton were made; March 6, 1858, Niles was set off, and Ulster was formed the first Monday of the next month.

At the June session of 1861, the board of township supervisors detached township 95, in range 18, and the south tier of sections of the same Congressional township from Union. At this time they also made twelve townships in the county. Rudd township was set off in 1870. The township of Scott was set off in June 1861, and has never since been changed. In 1867 Pleasant Grove township was organized; it being formerly a part of Union and Riverton townships.

Scott township occupies a position in the extreme southwest corner of the county, and is bounded on the north by Rockford and on the east by Union townships, and on the south by Butler county and on the west by Cerro Gordo county It contains no towns.

Rockford township is bounded on the south by Scott, on the east by Ulster, on the north by Rock Grove (and half a mile of Rudd townships) and on the west by Cerro Gordo county. Rockford is its only town.

Rock Grove is bounded on the south and east by Rockford and Rudd townships respectively; and on the west by Cerro Gordo county and on the north by Mitchell county. It formerly had two towns—Nora Springs and Rock Grove, but the former has now absorbed the latter.

Rudd township is bounded on the north by Mitchell county, on the east by Floyd and on the south by Ulster (and half a mile of Rockford) townships, and on the west by Rock Grove township The only town existing in this township is Rudd, which was laid out and platted in the fall of 1869.

Ulster township on the east is bounded by Floyd and St. Charles townships, on the south by Union, the west by Rockford and the north by Rudd townships. It has no towns within its borders.

The township of Union is bounded on the east by St. Charles and Pleasant Grove townships, the south by Butler county, the west by Scott and north by Ulster township respectively. This township formerly had two towns—Marble Rock and Aureola, but the latter "died" long ago. Union township forms the western half of this county, and represents a most beautiful and fertile region.

Pleasant Grove forms the southwest portion of the east half of the county, and is bounded on the south by Butler county, the west by Union township. and on the north by St. Charles, and the east by Riverton townships. The village of Powersville is located in this township.

St. Charles is by far the largest township in the county, and is quite irregular in outline. On the east it is bounded by Chickasaw county and Riverton and Niles townships, on the south by Pleasant Grove and Riverton townships; on the west by Ulster and Union, and on the north by Niles and Floyd townships Charles City, one of the finest cities in northern Iowa, and the county seat, is located in the northern-central portion of the township.

Floyd township, like St. Charles, is very irregular in outline. On the west Rudd and Ulster townships border it, and Mitchell county and Cedar township perform the same mission on the north; and on the south bordered by St. Charles, and on the east by the three townships —St. Charles, Niles and Cedar. Floyd, one of the oldest towns in the county, is located here.

Cedar occupies the northeast portion of the county, and is kept within bounds by Mitchell and Chickasaw counties. On the south Niles and Floyd townships bound it, and on the west Floyd performs the same mission. No towns have yet sprung up within the limits of this township.

Chickasaw county bounds Niles on the east, and on the west Niles is bounded by Floyd, Cedar and St. Charles townships, and on the south it is also bounded by St. Charles. People within this section find their best market at Charles City, although a little settlement called "Niles Corners,"exists in the southwest portion of this area. Riverton represents the southeastern portion of the county, and on the east Chickasaw county bounds it, and Butler county does the same on the south, while Pleasant Grove and St. Charles does the same for it on the west. On the north also, St. Charles still stays by it. No town have as yet sprung up here, it's people finding Charles City and Nashua easily accessiable.

Origin of the Name of Floyd County.

For many years there has been a periodical discussion among leading authorities, regarding the origin of the name of this county. Today however, the solution of this question seems no nearer than when first agitated, although the most plausible theory is that it was named in honor of Sargent Floyd, of the Lewis and Clark exploring expedition

Census of the County.

The earliest census of the county we have is that for 1856, which shows the county to have had at that time 2,444 inhabitants. In 1860, the county had a population of 3,744. Ten years from that date, or in 1870, it had increased to 10,768. In 1880 it had gained considerable, having at that time a population of 14,677. Five years from this date, or in 1885, according to the state census of that year, she had made a gain of 685 in her population; making, all told, just 15,362 within the bounds of the county. According to the Iowa state census for 1895, just issued, Floyd county is given a population of 17,114 making a gain of 1,752 during the last ten years. Taking the same report as authority, Floyd county has 3,331 married males, 3,337 married females, 5,327 single males, 5,119 single females, and 207 widowers and 436 widows.

The parentage of the population of this county is shown to be, native parents 8,975, and foreign parents 6,399. The town of Rockford has 1,044 population, Nora Springs 1,091, and Marble Rock 503 inhabitants. Charles City, according to this census, has only 4,200 inhabitants, while the Iowa Official Register for 1897 gives it 4 201 inhabitants, but a careful "house to house canvas" of the city by the compilers of the Charles City directory for 1896-7, put the number of inhabitants, "by actual count" at 4,852 Other towns in the county have less than 500 inhabitants each.

Floyd county also has 37 church organizations, 11 of these being in Charles City; and 123 institutions of learning, one of these being a college, one a parochal school and another a seminary; the two former being located in Charles City, and the latter at Nora Springs.

The Mission of the Pioneer.

Every human being has his mission in life. No one can live for himself. His influence is felt even against his will, by those coming in contact with him, and it will be for good or evil.

Since the command was given to mankind to people and subdue the earth, the immigration of the human family commenced in every direction, and family after family left their old homes to find a new field of action, and to conquer new elements and difficulties, or to enjoy new pleasures, and to discover yet unknown sources of happiness. For with his order, the Creator also implanted in the human breast the desire and the power to establish new homes, and to become independent actors in the drama of human life.

But not all are possessed of the desire to leave home, for not all feel strong enough to battle with the difficulties that a strong and wild life demands, they are satisfied within the narrow limits of their old dwelling place and willingly submit to their elders. We notice then at once the general characteristics of the pioneers of the present, as well as of by-gone times. Without fear and apprehension of coming danger, provided with an iron frame and nerves of steel, they leave home and firesides for a new home they never saw, to do work they have to learn; yes, to in a way learn a language they do not understand, and to fight the battles against an enemy whose bravery and wild tricks they are not acquainted with.

They are the strong ones of the families that go to the front. Such persons that are willing to work day and night, to gain by their own exertion that independence so highly prized by every pioneer everywhere These men can be led, but never ruled. They are admirable citizens, but poor subjects; good but proud neighbors, always ready to lend you a helping hand, but never willing to be subjected to your arbitrary rules. Were they living in Russia, they would end their lives in Siberia. Knowing no superior, they justly feal and act as sovereigns, and they form the strong nucleus of a free and independent state or country.

Although they left their former homes, yet they love them dearly, and continue their habits, their language, their manners of work, dress, and thinking for generations. Therefore, they imprint upon their new homes the image of their former abode. For years we notice their peculiarities in the arrangements of their farms, the shape of their houses and barns, and their walk and talk, their social gatherings, and their educational progress.

Nearly all the old pioneers of Floyd county were originally from the eastern and New England states, and represent some of the very best and most energetic people of those regions.

Many of us today do not fully realize what we owe to those old pioneers. Our present wonderful civilization stands as a monument to their memory—a monument, the grandure of which can be surpassed by no other people.

Pioneer Life in Floyd County.

Pioneer life as known to the early settlers here, finds its parallel, to a greater or less extent, in every new region throughout the west.

Upon the advent of the early settlers in this county, the prairies were to be robbed of their natural ornaments and the hand of art was to assist in their decorations. In some respects, the manners and customs of the pioneers of forty years ago have entirely passed away. The conditions, even on the present frontier, are materially different in many respects, than then.

The earliest settlers here were all compelled to build their own houses, procure for themselves the means of subsistence, and make their own garments. This being the case, it is to be expected that their dwellings, and garments, would be rude. These were matters often controlled by surrounding circumstances and means at their disposal.

The very earliest settlers of this county sometimes constructed what was termed three-faced camps, for temporary occupation until they could erect something better. Some of these primitive structures, however, were used through all seasons, for a year or more.

The walls of these "camps" were about seven feet high, and were usually slabs, then poles were laid across at a distance of about three feet apart, and on these a roof of clapboards was laid, which were kept in place by weight poles placed on them. The clapboards were usually about four feet in length and from eight inches to a foot in width, split out of white oak logs. The floor of this cabin was the bare earth. The structure required neither door, window nor chimney. The one side left out of the cabin answered for all these purposes.

Almost invariably in front of the open side was a large log heap, which served for warmpth in cold weather and for cooking purposes in all seasons. On either side of the fire there was spaces to enter in and out of the cabin. These camps were always built in the timber, and so were well protected from the storms. This style of structure was not the general form of dwelling house of the settlers; and they gave way to the more pretentious log cabin, as soon as the pioneer was able to erect one.

The log cabin was considered a great advance over the "camp" for comfort and home life, and was almost always located in the timber, around which a little clearing was made; but sometimes one would be seen far out on the prairies. These cabins were usually built of logs, but sometimes one the poles would be seen.

The spaces between the logs would be filled in with split sticks of wood, usually called "chink," and daubed over, both outside and in, with morter made of clay. The process of "chinking up" the crevices with morter was sometimes quite interesting At times the clay morter would be spread and into the crevices with the hand,or wooden paddle, but on "expert chinker" would roll up his shirt sleeves, and with one or both hands throw with great force the mud into the chinks and crevices, and he would make every handful "count." In this way the cracks and spaces were more efectually filled than in any other way.

Where lime could be procured, the entire interior of the cabin would be whitewashed. Quite often the floor was nothing more than the earth smoothed and beaten hard, but more commonly it was made of "puncheon," or split logs, with the flat or split side turned upward.

The roof was made by gradually drawing in the top of the ridge-pole, and, on cross pieces, laying the clap boards, which, being several feet in length, instead of being nailed, were held in place by poles laid on them, called "weight poles," reaching the length of the cabin.

The fire place varied somewhat in size and arrangement, but most usually to construct one, a piece was cut out of the logs on one end of the cabin, usually five to six feet in length, and three sides were built up of logs, making an offset in the wall. This was lined with stone if convenient to be had; but if not, it was plastered up with earth morter. The flue or upper part of the chimney, was built of split sticks, one upon the other, much like the "cob-houses" of our childhood. These sticks were generally two and a half or three feet long, and the chimney was carried a little space above the roof, and plastered over with clay, and when finished was called a "cat-and-clay" chimney. Sometimes, however, these chimneys and fireplaces were constructed of rock and clay morter.

The door space was made by cutting an apperture in one side or end of the cabin of the required size, the door itself being made of clapboard, or slabs split out and hewn down to the required thickness, and these boards secured by wooden pins to two cross pieces. The hinges also were of wood, rather large and "bungling." The fastenings consistedof a wooden latch catching on a hook of the same material. To open the door from the outside, a strip of buckskin was tied to the latch and drawn through a hole a few inches above the latch-bar, so that on pulling the string the latch or bar was lifted from the hook and the door was

opened without further trouble. To fasten or lock the door, it was only necessary to pull the string through the hole to the inside.

This cabin usually had but one room, and here the family lived, and here the travelers were made welcome. This living room was of good size, but to a great extent it was kitchen, bedroom, parlor, etc. all combined. From the rafters and logs hung rings of dried pumpkin, bacon, dried sweet corn, crab apples, and dried plums, and not infrequently there would be seen great strings of the breasts of prairie chicken drying for future use; and high upon the logs in one corner were hung many of the dried wild herbs found in the country then, for the early settler had to be his own doctor, preacher, and all else in those days. Around the broad fireplace was arranged the kitchen furniture, as well as suspended from pegs driven into the wall-logs.

During the winter the clothes line would be hung along on one side of the bed from pegs driven into the logs; but in the summer it would be run from tree to tree on the outside. Resting on pegs over the door, or some other place in the room, was the muzzle loading rifle or shot gun, with the powder horn and shot or bullet pouch near by. Sometimes, when the height of the cabin would allow of it, a loft with loose rough boards for a floor, would be made, and used as a sleeping place and to store various things not in common use. This loft—in no place high enough for a person to stand, save under the ridge-pole—was reached by a rude ladder fastened to the wall and leading to the loft through a square hole through the upper floor. Sometimes the bedroom was partitioned off from the living room by sheets and quilts suspended from the rafters.

Familiarity with this mode of living did away with many of the discomforts; but as soon as the improvement could be made, there was often added to the cabin an additional room, or a "double log cabin," with a log room on each end and a loft over head.

The furniture in the cabin was indeed scant and in keeping with the house itself. Sometimes there were two or three wooden chairs brought from the old home in the east; but usually their place was occupied by two or three rude three-legged stools and perhaps a puncheon bench with two legs at each end.

Most usually the bedstead was home made, and was either partly built on to the walls in one corner or else the four posts were made of sticks hewn out from small trees cut in the woods to which the two side and two end pieces were fastened, and to which the small rope, or more usually split sticks, was fastened or laid, and on this the tick filled with straw or wild grass was laid. Very often, however, the bed would be made on the floor.

Usually during the cold winter nights everything which could freeze would be found stiff and solid in the morning; and everything available would have to be put on the beds in order to keep comfortable, and even then it was often impossible to see where any comfort came in.

The cooking utensils were as few and simple as can well be imagined. Some had a "Dutch oven" and long handled frying pan, while others only had the latter. Generally all had a heavy iron kettle, a few tin dishes, knives and forks, as well as a few iron spoons; and this generally constituted about the entire kitchen outfit of the earliest settler. The cooking was all done at the fireplace, and the style of cooking was indeed as simple as the utensils. Corn meal was the common flour then, and out of it was made the common "johnny cake," "pan cake," "mush" or hasty pudding, and "Indian meal pudding." The johnny cake was made by sifting and scalding the meal, and mixing it with a little salt and saleratus, and placing it in the Dutch oven (or stove oven which some of the later settlers had) to bake. The "pan cakes," which was also often called johnny cakes, was made by mixing corn meal with cold water (and sometimes hot) and adding a pinch of salt and saleratus (sometimes white ashes were used "upon a pinch"), and then baked or fried in lard or pork gravy." "Mush" or "hasty pudding" was made then as now, and was very much used. The "Indian meal pudding" was a New England dish and was made very seldom by the earliest of the pioneers, but frequently by those who came a little later. This dish, even now, is so well known as to need no description, and was, as it is yet, made after the receipt which was doubtless handed down from the early pilgrims.

Some of the settlers in making "hoe-cake," would mix boiled pumpkin with the meal, which they said imparted to it "a far richer and more delicious flavor." Still another dish with which the settler was well supplied, was "hull corn." In preparing this, the corn would be shelled from the cob and put into a kettle with strong wood lye to boil This would soon loosen the "hulls" or "skin" of the kernels, which would then be taken out and well rubbed between the hands until all the hulls were removed and the lye rinsed off. This corn was washed and rinsed through several waters, and finally put over the fire to boil. The kernels would soon swell and crack, and then the corn was "done," and could be either fried in lard, or eaten with milk, like "mush."

For some years after settlements were made, the corn meal formed the staff commodity for bread. During the earliest period of the settlement of the county, wild game was abundant and furnished the settler with quantities of the choicest meats. The pioneer in those early days lighted his cabin by the bright glow from the fireplace, or with the home-made tallow candle, if they were fortunate enough to procure the material out of which to make them but more frequently they were "lighted" by a "slut," which was made by tying a rag around a large button, and setting it in a dish of grease. This contrivance yielded a dim flickering light, and an abundance of smoke.

Every spring, or at least every other spring, the women folks would have their periodical soap making. It was a strong, brown, soft soap that was made then, and when used it would always "take hold." A couple of logs would be rolled up close together, a fire built between them, and the big iron kettle placed on these logs over the fire, and the lye put on to boil. Then old scraps and "soap rinds," musty and old, which had been accumulating for a year or more, were thrown into this lye and all boiled together. Some one stood by with a great paddle three to four feet long to stir this boiling mixture and keep the fire going. The fumes from this boiling mess was strong and penetrating and would soar up in clouds. It would take a day or two, or even more, to boil a batch down. When it was finished it was put in a barrel and set away for use. Sometimes two crotched sticks were driven into the ground and a pole laid across on which the kettle was hung over the fire, instead of being set on logs. The lye for making this soapenaceous compound, was obtained as follows: A barrel was procured and through one side of the bottom about six one-inch auger holes was boared close together, then short sticks were laid across over the space where the holes were, and then a handful of coarse wild hay spread over the sticks. Wood ashes were then put into the barrel and pounded down until full. Then a cavity large enough to hold a couple of quarts was made in the ashes in the center at the top, into which water was turned and left to filter through and come out of the holes at the bottom in the form of strong lye. A sloping bench was made and the barrel of ashes—set sloping like the bench—placed on it, and under it a vessel was put to catch the lye as it "leached" through. This leach had to be attended to and water kept in it to insure a constant flow of lye. This same soft soap was not infrequently sold in the markets then, but is now practically a product of the past

The log cabin was inhabited by a kind, domestic industry and happiness rarely elsewhere to be found. Although those early days involved a life of toil, hardships, and the lack of many comforts, and made the settler old before his time. Still it was the life that made men of character, and Floyd county today has no better men than the immediate descendants of those who built their cabins in the forests and on the prairies, and by patience and endurance wrought out of the wilderness the landmarks for a prosperous commonwealth.

We have spoken thus fully of the old log cabin, for it was the home of the pioneer, and around it clustered all that was dear to him, and held in its keeping the destiny of our fair land.

Many of those old pioneers who yet linger with us, often turn back in longing to that old log cabin home, and only those who have passed that way can appreciate this feeling. In one of those old log cabins a part of the writer's early childhood was passed, and the recollection of that distant time now brings more pleasure than though that period had been passed in a mansion

Some few who may read these records of the experiences of the early pioneer, may smile at the

thought that many of them loving ly recall those old days and often long to call them back again, but may God pity those souls who in their blindness forget to whom they owe the blessings of life they enjoy today.

Timber in Early Days.

In the beginning of the settlements in Floyd county, there was much strife and excitement over the timber. It was the first thing sought for after the settler had weighed anchor and unyoked his oxen. Those who came here later than 1854 found no valuable timber unclaimed; but as many of the earlier settlers were of a trancient and roving character, ready and willing to sell a part or the whole of their timber, these tracts became more and more evenly distributed between the inhabitants. As time went on, even these tracts of timber have become so divided and subdivided that comparatively very few of the inhabitants of the county today own even an acre of timber outside the artificial groves which in many cases they themselves have planted.

In the earlier days many people would come here and buy large tracts, and "patches" of timber on speculation, or else stay a little while, become discouraged with things and "pull up stakes" and go back home again, but still hold possession of their timber lands.

These people were called non residents, and every legitimate settler considered it his inalienable right to help "skin" his land of timber, which they always did. I can well remember when our neighbors, who had no timber of their own, would keep themselves well supplied with fuel, etc. from these non-resident lands, and for years this was a common and just practice. There was, however, sometimes quite amusing experiences connected with this sort of work.

The ancient forests on every side have been ruthlessly slaughtered; thus each year reducing the timber acreage in this county, and increasing the area of prairie lands. This ought not to be. Because of the ruthless destruction of our forests, climatic changes are taking place all over our land which in a most vital way concerns our people.

History repeats itself; and just so sure as that other regions and countries have dearly suffered by the denudation of her forest areas, just so sure must our own state and county suffer in like manner for the committing of the same offence.

When the timber lands were all taken up, the settlers were obliged to select their claims from the prairie regions, and in doing this they would invariably choose the highest and dryest regions to be found, and if the soil was sandy, so much better were they suited. As the county then was wet, and sloughs abounded everywhere, this selection seemed the best; but as years went on and the county became broken and settled up, it became more and more evident each year that those lands originally low and wet, were the most valuable, and out of these lands the richest and most valuable farms of today have been carved.

The high, sandy places were selected by the settlers because the soil was "warm and quick," and the lower lands shunned because the soil was "heavy, cold and wet."

Haying in Early Days.

As we have elsewhere stated, the prairie lands and the sloughs were, in the early days, densely clothed with a covering of luxurient grass. On the uplands the "prairie grass" and blue joint predominated, and in the wet places the coarse "slough grass" grew rank and tall. The early settlers had no modern machinery to cut their wild hay with. The rake and the scythe were the implements they had used in their eastern homes, and were the same that they brought with them to these western wilds.

Stock then was not very abundant with the people, and consequently the amount of wild hay necessary to cut and put up in the fall, was not great. The "upland grass" was much the best for hay, but the grass in the sloughs was much heavier, and so was most often selected to be cut and put up. The slow plodding ox team was mostly used then, and it was many years before they gave way to horses.

As the county become more fully settled and the prairie lands taken up, the question of where to secure a sufficient quantity of wild grass to cut for use (and often to sell), was one of much concern to the inhabitants.

A rule adhered to among the people then in regard to this matter was, that the person who in the fall first selected and mowed a swathe or two around a certain piece of grass on unoccupied land, was entitled to it, and none intruded on his rights. Sometimes haying would not be finished until after the frosts had considerably injured the grass along in September and October. But this late season for haying was objectionable for other reasons than that of injury to the grass by frosts; for invariably during these periods of the year it was very windy, and made this work very difficult, and sometimes quite impossible.

Maple Sugar Making.

During the early days much maple sugar was made by the people of this county, and in some of the earlier issues of the "Charles City Intelligencer," accounts were given regarding this industry here, two of which we here subjoin.

Maple Sugar.

"The season for maple sugar has just closed, and a few facts in relation to it are worthey of notice. The sugar season has been short, commencing about the 25th of March. The yield of sap was below that of ordinary years; but owing to the richness of it, the amount of sugar produced has exceeded that of any season within my experience, for the same quantity of sap. Five pounds of sugar from one barrel of sap has always been considered a good yield. This season the yield has been as high as ten pounds per barrel. The conveniences and arrangements for making sugar in this county are exceedingly defective. An old leaky trough and a hollow bass-wood log with boards nailed over each end, the seams calked with slippery elm bark, are the most common articles in use for securing and storing the sap. With such imperfect arrangements, about one third of the sap has been wasted the present season; and yet, with these drawbacks on the sugar crop of Floyd township, there has been made the present season within two miles of the village of Floyd, over six thousand pounds of maple sugar (and sap enough drawn for nine thousand pounds.) The largest amount from any one "bush" was 1,250 pounds, made by Messrs Abbott and Montgomery. Others have made from 200 to 500 pounds each.

"There is not that attention given to tapping the trees where they should be to secure a free flow of the sap. Many people are in the habit of tapping near the ground and in the most convenient spot for placing the troughs. All experienced sugar-makers will agree that by tapping a tree over a large leading root, three or four feet above the ground, and where the grain of the wood is free from knots and gnarls, the sap will flow more freely, and consequently a larger yield of sugar will be obtained.—Floyd Correspondent, May 1, 1862."

Maple Sugar.

"Farmers, house-wives, sweet girls and boys, who are fond of sweet things, now is your time for sugar making.

"What will you do for your sugar allowance for the coming year if you do not bestir yourselves and seek to obtain it from the sugar maple (Accer saccharinum) which God has planted around your homes.

"You must not expect sugar from the rebels this year. They have enough to do to fight your brothers and friends, those brave hearts who have gone to defend and maintain our government against their bloody assaults These brave men have left upon us the responsibility to do what we can for their comfort while absent, and when they return what will be more welcome to them on a table of a friend, than a bowl of clean, well refined sugar, made by the hand of a thoughtful friend, which was never poluted by the hand of a traitor.

"From motives like these, with patriotic hearts, we must not be idle. We must make sugar now, as we make hay while the sun shines. Let us increase the quantity and quality the present season, and see to it that we take a step toward independence in the article of sugar. We know that in all the prairie districts of the west the people are growing sorghum and making therefrom syrup and sugar. But we must not rely wholly upon that source for supply. We should also have all the maple sugar we can make. Set out all the buckets, troughs, tubs, etc., set the kettles in motion, and do not make dirty, black stuff, but take pains and make a pure, white article, choice and excellent.—'Intelligencer' May 27, 1862."

At Marble Rock, Rockford, and other places in the county, large quantities of maple sugar was made at this time, as well as prior and subsequent to it.

Reminiscenses of Pioneer Days.

In 1858 the "western fever" had reached the Atlantic coast, and many there were imbued with the idea that on the wild prairies of Iowa was to be found "a balm for every woe."

Among others to be imbued was the parents of the writer. So, bidding farewell to childhood's scenes, and to home in old Connecticut, they started for distant Iowa, "the border land of the west." They came to Nottingham, now Earlville, in Deleware county, Iowa, "on the cars", and from there "staged it" overland through the mud and the sloughs to Rockford, in this county, settling there on the 17th of October, 1858.

Rockford was then only a little border hamlet, comprising only six or seven dwellings of pioneers who had only a little while before preceded my people here. Among those who were there then were: J. S. Childs O. H. Lyon, George Wyatt, Robert Mathews, Ralph Mathews, Allen Moore, H. Stearns, Washington Green, and a few others.

Nature had done much for the beautiful place chosen for the sight of the village of Rockford. A part of it was an oak opening, while the eastern portion along the river was a beautiful open space, covered by a great profusion of bright wild flowers. Here, then, the prairie chicken and the quail was hunted.

On the "point" at the junction of the Shell Rock and Lime creek, the Indians still continued to occupy their old camp ground, and also in the heavy timber on Lime creek, about a quarter of a mile farther up.

Close along the high east bank of the Shell Rock was an old Indian trail, worn deep by constant use. This same old trail may be plainly seen here today, having been, through these long intervening years, kept worn down by the foot of the white man. The moccasin tracks have forever disappeared.

Today some of the gnarled oaks, already old when the first pioneer set foot in this region, still stand near this trail, as landmarks connecting the past with the present. The county, at the time my people came to Rockford, was full of all sorts of game, deer and elk being more or less abundant

Our home was first a little three roomed house among the oaks in the settlement of Rockford; and here I was born on the 18th of March, 1859. This, my first home, was not owned by my people. Soon after I was born my people took up their abode in a log cabin in the heavy woods on the south bank of the Shell Rock about two miles northwest of Rockford, and here worked a newly opened up farm.

Years went by, my people experiencing all the hardships and privations incident to the opening up of a new country. Some months before my people landed in Rockford, the last piece of government land had been taken up in that region. So, after a time, they purchased a 40 acre tract of "raw prairie," about a mile and a half northeast from the settlement; and after a time they also bought a little piece of land located on the border of the prairie and the timber, in what is now the northeast portion of the town, and here erected a home, leaving the old log cabin. Years of my life was spent in this early home, which we afterwards left to live on the farm that my people long before had purchased, and which they later added too until the farm comprised 120 acres

Times were hard then, and money an almost unknown quantity. I here speak of our own experiences more fully during those times, as it was the usual experience of the pioneers everywhere—although, perhaps, in some respects our experiences were a little more trying. The winters then were longer and far colder than those of

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our present time. Doubtless one reason for this was that the county was far wetter than now, and the snow fall was much greater and its season much more prolonged. The atmosphere during all those years was more heavily ladened with moisture and this made it seem much colder in winter. The snow would drift then far worse than is known here now—not infrequently hay stacks, sheds, wood piles, etc., would be nearly or entirely snowed under, the drifts being from ten to twenty-five feet high. Then we would be obliged to tunnel our way through these drifts to feed and care for the stock, etc. The straw sheds, when drifted under like this, were very warm for the cattle, although also very dark. The only way a person would be able to in any way appreciate these trying conditions, would be to experience them themselves.

Then, during those fierce winters the settlers were not provided with such warm clothing as we of the present. Comparatively few of them had overcoats, and overshoes were unknown. Coarse and heavy cowhide boots, "stiff as a board," was the customary foot gear, with sometimes old grain sacks and pieces of quilts wrapped around them to prevent their feet from freezing solid—for everyone had their feet "nipped."

Later a few had buffalo-skin mocassins, with hair turned in, to slip over the boots. All clothing was coarse and plain, and all felt thankful to get even that. They say that one reason why we have so many "straight" men among us today who are descended from the early pioneers, is because (and perhaps they are correct) they were brought up to wear "Kentucky jeans." This cloth seemed to be peculiar to that early time. It was of the color of a thunder cloud—deep bluish gray, and was so stiff and unyielding in its behavior as was our late chief executive regarding the wills and wishes of the people. In fact, it was very much like sheet iron—hard to bend but would occasionally break. When it did bend however, the wrinkles would forever stay in it. This was the "old stand by," and the clothing of the men and boys was mostly made of it.

In the spring of the year there was always much water, and ponds were everywhere, and much wading was to be done. Now the "grease basin" came into use. This basin was always half full of hard tallow, with a piece of rag wound 'round a stick for a swab. The wet boots would at night be filled full of oats and set by the fire to dry. The oats on the inside would absorb the moisture, and "swell," and so enable the owner of the boots to get them on again in the morning. In the morning a liberal supply of the melted tallow would be "swabed" on the boots, and they then held up to the fire for the grease to soak in. This made the boots cold, but enabled the wearer to wade through slush and water all day with dry feet. If, however, these wet boots were not carefully filled with oats and dried at night, then it was best for those at all particular as to language used, to vacate in the morning while the owner of the boots puffed and swore in his efforts to get them on, I used to think that the man who could, with a serene and unruffled temper manage to master and get on a pair of these rough, wrinkled and shrunken cow hide boots, had a pretty reasonable assurance of kind and liberal treatment in the hereafter.

Often father would come in with boots so wet and shrunken that he would have to call for assistance in pulling them off. The old bootjack would be hauled out from under the bed, the boot be placed in it, mother set on the toe of the boot and father would perform the manual labor. Often mother would slip off the boot just at the right (or wrong) moment, and sit down with a groan (and this was a common thing with the settlers in those days), while father would manage to "catch himself," or else perform a "double geared back-action" act swear a little, and get up and try it again.

When "the children" got older (and heavy enough, for this was a responsible position) we had to play the part of right-hand assistant at boot-pulling.

Some will say these are small things, and it's true, but then, life is made up of small things, and it is on the small things of life that the destiny of mankind hangs.

I well remember those early day experiences. The chamber to our house was not finished off, and there were cracks and crevices through the roof everywhere, which allowed of our studying astronomy every night while lying in bed. I remember distinctly a certain crack through which we could at all times see the north star, and wondering why this special luminary always occupied the same spot (I could not think it was for my special benefit) while all the others seemed to move along. This was my first experience in studying astronomy, and a long schooling of it I had too.

During the winter the biting northwest winds would come sweeping through the chamber, and compell us to cover our heads in the bed clothes to prevent our ears and nose from being "nipped." Then too, during those fierce blizzards and snow storms, the snow would blow through and on to us, and many a time we have awakened in the morning to find six inches of snow on the bed, and on the floor, through which we would have to wade barefooted to get down stairs.

They used to say a new country was "hell on women and oxen," but we fully believed it was equally hard on the children.

Every one had plenty of neighbors—in fact, all were neighbors for miles and miles around. The custom then of making fashionable calls"—dropping in to stay just eight and one-half seconds by the watch, and then rushing off to afflict some one else—was never thought of. Neighbors and friends would then go visiting and stay all day, never thinking of taking less than two meals with their host.

Generally, several of the women friends would be taken by some of the men folks there in the morning in a lumber wagon, and along toward evening the men folks would come, take supper, and all spend the evening most enjoyably. These visits were by all parties planned ahead several days, and the very best the house afforded was put on for dinner and supper ("tea" wasn't known of then). Almost invariably, roast spare-ribs, baked beans and "injin pudding," together with wild crab apple and plum sauce, boiled or baked potatoes, "spare-rib gravy" and corn bread, was had. And those of us today who exist on "patent beef-extracts (usually essence of horse meat), tapioca and a varying list of compounds, can well envy one of such a meal.

In those early days we had a good, old fashioned, homely religion—in fact we reached "bed-rock" and struck "bay-dirt" in the search after truth. There was too much earnestness and reality about life then, to warrant anybody in playing the part of a "whited sepulchre"

I well recall the "religious waves" which would occasionally sweep over the settlements, and which very often took on the form of most animated and protracted discussions regarding the efficacy of "baptism" and its superiority over "sprinkling," and the realities of "hell-fire." One party wouldn't yield and the other would "hold to it," so the question was never settled satisfactorily to all.

As a rule there was little or no money in the country, so of course the settlers had to get along without it. The settlers would change works with each other whenever it was necessary, and so "help each other out." In butchering or "killing time," late in the fall or early winter, each neighbor would help the other in this work, and when all was finished in the neighborhood, the hogs—all dressed—would be loaded up, together with wheat and whatever other "produce" they had to sell, on their start for market, at Cedar Falls, 50 miles away. The settlers of the eastern part of the county almost always went to market at McGregor, on the Mississippi, which was even farther away than Cedar Falls This was the general market time for the people all over the country, and they would join each other at different points on the road, forming great strings of teams a mile or more in length. Nearly all used oxen then, and some had from two to five yoke or more attached to their loads. When these caravans reached their destination at Cedar Falls, or McGregor, it was a sight to behold." Teams and men were everywhere and business was most lively, and often the men could scarcely find sleeping room enough at night. The settlers had, however, to be extremely saving of the money they received from the sale of their produce, or else go home empty handed. From necessity—sometimes to save money—the men would camp out by the roadside on these trips. Some would sleep on the ground under their wagons while others would sleep in them. All took blankets and quilts along with them and some "cooked stuff" together with a few camp utensils. At night the wagons would all be drawn up together as near as possible, or into separate groups, and the oxen unyoked, fed and tied out, while their owners would boil their coffee and cook their supper around the cheerful campfire. The evenings would be spent telling yarns, discussing the prospects of the country, etc. Those were indeed memorable times, and they had their pleasant and enjoyable phase as well as their unpleasant side.

In this connection, an article printed under date of October 11, 1860 may be of importance, as it gives in detail some interesting facts regarding going to market and camping out, and which we here subjoin:

"Camping Out."

"Northern Iowa and southern Minnesota have raised several wagon loads of surplus produce this season which must be hawled from ten to one hundred miles to market.

"An average load of wheat is 35 bushels, and the average distance from our county (Chickasaw) to McGregor is seventy miles, and the round trip is usually made in about six days, wind and weather being favorable." Wheat at the river last week brought 70 cents, and now, with the premises understood, let us muster a few figures, learned from Dabol, and see how flush a farmer who loves his coffee three times a day will return from the voyage:

35 bushels of wheat at 70 cents		$24 50
3 meals a day, 6 days, 25 cents	$4.50	
3 cigars " " 5 "	.90	
3 smiles " " 5 "	.90	
Horse feed, 5 nights, 75 cents	3.75	
Horse feed, 6 noons, 30 cents	1.80	
Lodging, 5 nights, 15 cents	.75	
setting 4 horse shoes, 12½ cents	.50	
		$13 10
Leaving		$11 40

or thirty-two cents a bushel for his wheat, with the week's work of himself and team not counted.

Hence, camping out, as it is called, becomes a necessity, and until railroads are extended to our great northwestern grainery, camping out must continue to be popular. This, when one becomes accustomed to it, is far from being unpleasant. With half a dozen good fellows in company, and the night camp fire, with song and jest, coffee and doughnuts, and the great star-quilted blanket of heaven for a covering, one must be lost to the pleasure of life not to enjoy it. Then to think of the nice things for the wife and children which the $11 40 thus saved will bring them, and the smiles of welcome which will greet them on their return, and who will say that camping out brings not its own great reward"

Market Prices in Early Days.

The market prices, both at McGregor and Cedar Falls, at which places the settlers of this county found sale for their produce, varied somewhat, and it may be of interest to here review some of those old prices at different periods, and compare them with the present:

"McGregor Wholesale Market."

Butter, lb	$ 10 to $ 12	
Beans, bu	40 to 50	
Coffee, Rio	12 to 12½	
Candles, mould, lb	12 to 13	
Cheese lb	9 to 11	
Corn, bu	40	
Flour, bbl	2 50 to 2 75	
Hams, lb	9 to 10	
Hides, dry, lb	13	
Lard, lb	10½	
Molasses, N. O., gal	40 to 45	
Molasses, S. H., gal	55 to 60	
Mackerel, No 2, bbl	15 to 16	
Oats, bu	30	
Onions, bu	1 50	
Pork, fresh, cwt	4 50 to 5 00	
Pork, salt, bbl	14 00 to 14 50	
Sugar, N. O. lb	8 to 9¾	
Sugar, crushed, lb	12½	

McGregor, January 1, 1859

Goods were freighted from McGregor to Charles City at this time, and of course were somewhat higher, as shown by the retail market reports here at that period.

"McGregor Wholesale Prices Current."

McGregor, Nov. 29, 1862.

Wheat, bu	$ 70 to $ 76	
Oats, "	27	
Corn, "	25	
Potatoes, bu	25	
Tallow, lb	7	
Hides, lb	13	
Wool, lb	45 to 50	
Beef on the hoof, lb	2	
Lard, lb	5 to 6	
Eggs, doz	5 to 6	
Butter, lb	9 to 12	
Flour, 100 lbs	2 25	
Pork	2 50 to 3 00	
Sugar, N. O., lb	9 to 11	
Sugar, Cuba, lb	10 to 11	
Sugar, white coffee, lb	12½	
Sugar, crushed lb	14	
Sugar, powdered, lb	14	
Coffee, Rio, lb	25 to 27	
Coffee, Java, lb	30	
Coffee, Mocha, lb	30	
Rice, lb	8½	
Molasses, N. O., gal	50	
Syrup, N. Y. Golden, gal	50	
Syrup, Belseiers, gal	40	
Fish, Dry Cod, lb	5¾	
Fish, White, lb	4	
Fish, Trout, lb	4	
Cut nails	4 50	
N. Y. White Lead	6½ 8	
Oil, linseed, gal	1 12	
Oil, White, gal	90	
Oil, Lard, gal	80	
Babbitts saleratus	8½	
Candles, tallow, lb	11½	
Candles, stars, lb	22	
Candles Sperm, lb	30	
Crackers, lb	6	
Stick and Assorted Candy, lb	12 to 16	
Soap, lb	6	
Starch, lb	8	
Dried Apples, lb	5½ 6½	
Fine Salt, bbl	2 50	
Dairy Salt, bbl	4 25	
Prunes, lb	10	

Cedar Falls Market.

Cedar Falls, December 4, 1862.

Flour Extra superfine, cwt	$ 2 50	$
Flour, superfine, cwt	2 00 to	2 25
Wheat, bu	55 to	65
Corn, bu	20 to	25
Oats, bu	25 to	30
Barley, bu	30 to	40
Clover Seed, bu	6 00	
Timothy Seed, bu	50	
Beans, bu	75	
Potatoes, bu	20 to	25
Butter, lb	7 to	9
Lard, lb	5 to	6
Eggs, doz	5	
Salt, bbl	2 50	
Hides Green, lb	3 to	4
Hides, Salt, lb	4 to	5
Hides, Dry Flint	9 to	10
Raisins	4 00	
Tea Young Hyson, lb	1 20 to	1 45
Tea Imperial, lb	1 10 to	1 35
Tea Gun Powder, lb	1 40	
Tea Oolong, lb	70 to	80

Charles City Retail Market.

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 1862.
(From Intelligencer.)

Flour per cwt	$ 1 25 to	$ 1 50
Wheat bu., (spring wheat)	40 to	45
Corn on cob, bu	25 to	30
Corn shelled, bu	30	
Oats, bu	20 to	30
Corn meal, cwt	1 60	
Potatoes, bu	20 to	25
Beans, bu	50 to	75
Butter, lb	6 to	8
Cheese, lb	5 to	6
Salt Pork, lb	5 to	6
Fresh Pork, lb	5 to	6
Beef, lb	2½	2¾
Chickens, lb	4 to	6
Turkeys, lb	5	
Lard, lb	6	
Venison, lb	5 to	6
Wood, cord	5	
Salt, bbl	1 25 to	1 50
Eggs, doz	4 00	
Hay ton (wild)	5	
Bacon, lb	2 50 to	3 00
Sugar N. O., lb	5 to	6
Maple Sugar, lb	13	
Maple Syrup, gal	12	
Molasses, gal	12	
Syrup, gal	75	
Soap, bar	80	
Candles, tallow, lb	8 to	10
Tea, lb	12 to	14
Coffee, lb	1 00 to	1 00
Fish, Salt, lb	25 to	30
Dried Apples, lb	8 to	10
Dried Peaches, lb	8 to	10
	10 to	12

For the purpose of comparison, the present selling retail market prices are here given:

Charles City Retail Market.

Charles City, Tuesday, March 30, 1897.

Corn, bu	10 to	13
Oats bu	10 to	12
Rye, bu	23	
Barley, bu	15 to	18
Wheat, bu	55 to	60
Flour, best Fancy Patent cwt	2 50	
Flour, second grade, cwt	2 40	
Flour, Straight, cwt	1 50	
Butter Creamery, lb	15 to	20
Eggs, doz	7	
Potatoes bu	20	
Timothy seed, cwt	2 00	
Clover seed cwt	4 00	
Flax bu	60 to	65

Beeves live lb	3 to	3½
Stockers and feeders lb	3 to	3¼
Veals lb	2 00 to	5 00
Milch cows	25 00 to	30 00
Hogs live cwt	3 50 to	3 60
Sheep lb	2½	
Chickens lb	4	
Turkey lb	7	
Ducks lb	7	
Geese lb	6	
Corn meal cwt	1 50	
Beans bu	80	
Cheese lb	12	
Salt pork lb	7 to	12
Fresh pork lb	8	
Beef lb	5 to	15
Lard lb	7 to	8
Venison		
Wood cord hard	4 00 to	5 00
Wood cord soft	3 00 to	3 50
Hay wild ton	3 00 to	3 50
Hay tame ton	4 00 to	4 50
Maple sugar lb	10	
Maple Syrup gal	1 00	
Molasses gal	40	
Syrups gal	10½	25
Sugar white lb	5½	
Sugar brown lb	5¼	
Sugar loaf	5½	
Bacon lb	8 to	13
Soap bar	2 to	4
Candles tallow lb	15	
Teas lb	161-2	70
Coffees lb	161-2	40
Fish salt lb	41-2	16
Prunes Cal	41-2	5
Dried Peaches lb	5	
Dried Apples lb	5	
Saleratus pkg	5	
Salt bbl	1 00	
Hides green lr	4 00 to	5 00
Raisins lb	5 00 to	6 00

Early Roads.

During the early settlement of the county, there was few if any "laid out" roads, and so people made roads wherever they thought best. As a rule they followed the ridges or "high swells" on the prairies to avoid the sloughs which abounded almost everywhere. But do the best they could, sloughs had very often to be crossed, and the streams always forded. It was never safe to start out without an extra chain or two and two or three rails to aid in getting out of the sloughs when mired down, which was an every day occurence. The sloughs were "bottomless," and the streams often deep and dangerous to ford.

"Farm lines" were practically unknown then, and the people "cut crosslots" in journeying from one place to another—always choosing the shortest and most direct route.

Another feature of pioneer life which every old settler will vividly recall was the chills and fever "fever and ague" or "ague" as it was variably called. It was a terror to new comers and few escaped it. It was generally periodical in its attacks, coming round in the fall of the year. In was no respector of persons; almost everybody looked pale and yellow, as though frostbitten and wilted. It was not contageous, but derived from impure water and air, which was always developed in the opening up of a new county of rank soil like Floyd County. My people, like most of the other settlers was afflicted with it, although for some unknown reason I, was, personally, never attacked, but the "pleasures" enjoyed by the rest was sufficient evidence to me that I was fortunate in my escape.

"The impurities continued to absorb from day to day, and from week to week, until the whole corporate body became saturated with it as with electricity; and then the shock came, and the shock was a regular shake, with a fixed beginning and ending, coming on in some cases each day, but generally on alternate days, with a regularity that was surprising. "After the shakes come the fever, and this "last estate was worse than the first, it was a burning hot fever and lasted for hours. When you had the chill you couldn't get warm, and when you had the fever you couldn't get cool. It was exceedingly awkward in this respect—indeed it was. Nor would it stop for any contingency, not even a wedding in the family would stop it. It was imperative and tyrannical When the appointed time come around, everything else had to be stopped to attend to its demands. It didn't even have any Sunday or holidays After the fever went down you still didn't feel much better, you felt as though you had gone through some sort of a collision, threshing machine, or jarring machine, and come out, not killed but next thing to it. You felt weak as though you had run too far after something, and didn't catch it. You felt languid, stupid and sore, and was down in the mouth and heel, and partially raveled out. Your back was out of fix, your head ached and your appetite was crazy. Your eyes had too much white in them, your ears especially after taking quinine, had too much roar in them, and your whole body and soul were entirely woe begone, disconsolate, sad. poor and good for nothing. You didn't think much of yourself, and didn't think other people did either, and you didn't care. You didn't quite make up your mind to commit suicide, but sometimes wished some accident would happen to knock either the malady or yourself out of existance. You thought the sun had sort of a sickly shine about it. About this time you come to the conclusion that you wouldnot take the whole state as a gift, and if you had the strength and the means you would pick up Hannah and the baby, and your traps, and go back "yonder" to "Old Virginia," the "Jerseys," "Maryland" or "Pennsylvania."

"And today, the swallows flitting
Round my cabin door, see me sitting
Moodily within the sunshine,
Just inside my silent door,
Waiting for the ages seeming
Like a man forever dreaming
And the sunlight on me streaming
Throws no shadow on the floor;
For I'm too thin and sallow
To make shadows on the floor—
Nary shadow any more!

The foregoing is not a mere picture of the imagination. It is simply recounting in quaint phrase what actually occurred in hundreds of cases. Whole families would be sick at one time, and not one member at all able to wait upon another. Labor or exercise always aggravated the melody. and it took General Laziness a long time to thresh the enemy out. These were the days of swallowing all sorts of roots and herbs and whiskey straight with some faint hope of relief. Finally when the case was out, the last remedy got the credit of the cure

As the settlements in Floyd and adjoining counties began to grow, a quite heavy freighting business was conducted along the McGregor route by the way of Ft. Atkinson and Jacksonville to Charles City, Osage, etc. Teamsters went in gangs for mutual help and company, and nearly every house on the route kept travelers. Of course these teamsters became acquainted with the peculiarities of every stopping place.

On one of these trips, a new teamster had joined them, and the snow was deep and the drifts heavy, and it was late when they reached their rendezvous for the night. When they had taken care of and fed their horses they went to the house to partake of a bountiful supper that the good women of the house had prepared. When seated at the table and the matron had poured the coffee, she commenced to ask each one if he would have milk in his coffee This question was answered in the negative by all the old teamsters, but when it came to the new man he responded, "If you please." At this she brought forth the maternal fount and dexterously commenced to deposit the lacteal fluid into his coffee. Seeing this, he hastily exclaimed, "No, no, no, it sours on my stomach." He ever after went by the sobriquet of "sour stomach."

Perhaps some of the early settlers, still residing in Charles City, may recollect this event. At any rate it went all over, and even J. H. Powers, in his history of Chickasaw county records it.

Among the things which surprised the new comer in this county were the breaking teams. Many of these teams consisted of eight or ten yoke of oxen, and the plow carried a beam sixteen feet long and eight inches square at their largest place. The furrow turned was from twenty-eight to thirty-two inches wide and the forward end of the plow beam rested on a pair of trucks the wheel running in the furrow being a little the largest, the beam being raised and lowered with a lever, the rear end of which was set and held in place by a pin running through the lever and two uprights at the rear end of the beam The thickness of the furrow could be controlled by this lever and it varied from two inches on smooth prairie, to such depth as the conformation or character of the ground demanded.

In approaching a grove of small timber, no halt was made, but the lead oxen, which were generally selected as being especially adopted to this service, would stride the young growth and bend them down and if too large would be loped with an ax, the plow would be let down so as to cut deeper, and under the whip every ox would settle himself for a pull, and I have seen poplar trees four inches in diameter go down like grass. Of course, only very small oaks could undergo this treatment, for they have a very firm and hard tap root and it was necessary to grub them before breaking. Hazle brush that was high enough to hide a team from view, was not considered an obstruction, and was rolled under as readily as prairie grass.

These great breakers have gone, having served their day. These monster breaking plows were not used everywhere, for on the level prairies where no obstruction was offered by brush and trees, a smaller and lighter plow was used, and only two to three yoke of oxen were attached.

The settlers were in all things thrown upon their own resources during the earlier days of this county. If one of their number happened to be proficient, "even to the smallest" degree, in the handling of herbs, his services were in great demand.

This phase of pioneer life is so well illustrated by the experiences of Hon. J. H. Powers—well known in Charles City—of New Hampton, and recorded in his History of Chichasaw county, that I am constrained to here give it in his own words, simply stating, by way of explanation, that Mr. Powers is and has always been a lawyer by profession, and is also one of the old settlers who "waded sloughs, swam streams, breasted the storms of winter, lived on corn meal, and greeted all comers with genuine hospitality." Regarding his medical practice, etc, Mr. Powers says: "As I was the only professional man of any kind within many miles of New Hampton, I had calls, some of which were appalling, but arising to the emergency. I soon found myself getting quite a practice as a physician, dentist and surgeon. Borrowing a turnkey that was originally made for extracting colts teeth, and attaching a smaller hook, I was prepared for business, and as there was power enough in the instrument to extract a white oak stump, whenever I hooked on the tooth had to come, and many a victim that came to my office with the tooth ache, left nursing a lacerated jaw. George Arnold of Utica township, came and said he had two teeth he wanted extracted, remarking that everyone who had tried had failed. I hitched on, and if you ever heard the deep sounding bay of the bloodhound when he sighted his game, you have a faint idea of the sound that followed, but the tooth came out, and so did a splinter of the bone to which it was attached. About six weeks afterwards I met him on the prairie between his house and New Oregon, with a shall over his head. On accosting him, he said I had hurt him so that he had been up to have a doctor draw his other tooth, and then pathetically, 'The darned fool pulled out more of the jaw bone than you did.' I was called up early on the morning of the 4th of July, and found Jennie Brond, a buxom Scotch lass, who wanted some teeth extracted. Seating her in the front door and taking her head between my knees, I pulled out three double teeth, and no sound was uttered until the last one was out, when she jumped up and said, now brother, I can go to the dance, can't I? This family moved to Oregon, and Jennie is the mother of a large family of Scotch-Americans, if I may be pardoned for using the term, for Scotchmen who become citizens are so thoroughly americanized that you seldom hear of the prefix. In surgery, I had quite a practice. I recall one days work. We had erected a poll swing, and Abner Jackson was showing how high he could swing, and, slippind off, shot off on the prairie, striking on his hands, both wrists dislocating, making his hands and arms looked like grind stone cranks. On examination I found that both wrists were dislocated, the carpal bones where they articulate with the ulna and radius and where they articulate with the metacarpal bones, I reduced them with great skill, but failed to fully replace the cuneiform bone on the left wrist, and it left a small bunch. Just as I had finished this job, I was called to go down three miles to dress a wound on Emanuel Watham, an ox having stuck his horn under his lip, it coming out just under his eye. Here I made a mistake, for I commenced to sew at the top of the wound and when I came to the dividing line of his lip it did not come out even, and when he got well there was a little notch on the line of his lip, but otherwise it got well all right.

My surgical outfit consisted of a jack knife, a three-cornered glovers needle, a roweling needle and a pair of bullet moulds for forceps My pharmaceutical outfit was more elaborate I had Culvers Physic, a root that grew upon the prairie that possessed, in its effect, many of the properties of blue mass, salts and castor oil, for cathartics; boneset, salt and water, and mustard, for emetics and nettles for a counterirritant.

Then there was pennyroyal, catnip, horsemint and peppermint for teas for children. I also was presented with a bag of saffron to be used on very young children, and in case of measles, but the fair donner did not tell me where, in case of measles, I was to get the other articles, cider and its accompanying ingredient, to make the prescription full as a new England Orthodox remedy. A syringe was improvised by inserting a hollow elder into the neck of a bladder, and while, we did not, like Sando Panza, give clysters of salt, snow, water and sand, we found a very good remedy in soap suds and milk. As an antipfebrile, we used slippery elm, and it also made a very soothing poultice. There was one remedy that we used as a general alterative, and in case where there was an unsatisfactory diagnosis, and that was a tea made of the ashes and coal left when burning prairie grass and weeds, and it became very popular, especially when colored with burned sugar, and the doses ordered dropped out with great care.

Some cynic may call this charlatanism, in thus practicing upon the credulity of my patience, but they all got well, and I have the feeling that I shall long remain unharmed, if I wait for some regular practitioner, who is without like sin, to cast the first stone. We had none of the modern anticeptics, but in lieu of carbolic acid, sublimates, etc., we used powdered charcoal, "not having anesthetics, we substituted it with grin and bear it," and it did very well, so far as the operator was concerned. Medicating maidens, waiting upon matrons, reducing dislocations and setting broken bones, binding up wounds and pulling teeth, and administering to many unknown ills, I had a practice that would have been the envy of a young physician, but somehow there was a feeling that my services were often called for, for the reason I made no charges.

Think not that there were no other calls in other lines, in a new country life, for often have I been called and tried to comfort mourning ones, by a few last words over the graves of loved ones. Some of these are the saddest in memory, yet they had a silver sheen behind the dark cloud. Sad, that I was called upon to witness the proof that man is mortal, and that hearts were called upon to bleed as the last sad rites over their loved ones are performed, yet bright in the hope and trust that the young flower of matured fruit has been transplanted to a more congenial clime on the other side.

Coming from an eastern home, bringing forth her first born after months of loneliness, home sickness and privation, and then, just as the little one had filled the mother's heart, to have it taken from her and buried on the bleak prairie, is an experience that many a young mother has been called upon to pass through in her western home. It was related that at the funeral of Noel Gates, a man passed seventy, there being no one to conduct religious services, and feeling that it would be barbarious to bury him without something more than just covering him with the cold earth, it was suggested that a hymn be sung. Under this suggestion someone started the old funeral hymn:

"Sister, thou wast mild and lovely,
Gentle as the summer breeze."

But the ludicrousness of the words, when taken in connection with the old man whom they were burying, was too much for their dignity, and voice after voice was silenced with suppressed mirth, and there was a fading out of every voice at the end of the second line. This appeared to be a favorite hymn, perhaps the only one that memory recalled, and was sung at the funeral service at the burial of old Mrs. Bellows, William Everingham and N. R. Johnson constituting the choir. Everingham insists that there were others that attempted to sing, but that he and Johnson were the only ones that held out to the end. Thus we see that there was a struggling after civilized forms under difficulties."

Along in the earlier fifties a man by the name of Dewitt, took up the tract of timber and prairie now known as the Dumbolten farm, located a mile or more to the northwest of Rockford. Afterwards this tract come into the possession of a Mr. Brentner, and later into the possession of Mr. Dumbolten.

Along in these early days this Dewitts' wife died here at their cabin home- No lumber for a coffin was to be had then nearer then Cedar Falls or Cedar Rapids, so the wagon box which he moved to this new and wild country in, was taken apart and a rude coffin made of the boards, and his tried and true companion laid away to rest 'mid the wild woods on the banks of Lime Creek. There was something unusually sad in a scene like this. Such an event is hard and sad enough when surrounded by sympathizing friends, but doubly hard to bear in a wild and unsettled country like this, to when one's last friend is stricken down and taken away. But such were the trials many of the pioneers were called upon to endure.

The settler would, in quitting his plowing at night, wipe the dirt from the mouldboard of his plow and set it out of the furrow. The hard metal was polished and bright as a mirror and when set out upon some elevated point, the sunset sun shining upon it, would be reflected as from burnished brass, and could be seen for miles. Some New England friends who had come out here, saw this bright reflection and inquired as to its origin, and could not credit it when explained. They, who had been accustomed only to use the old adjustable cast-iron mould-boards upon the stone-heaps of New England, could not conceive of such a thing being possible. Our deep rich soil would blow back and off from the plow with a clear sheen never observed in their native states in the east.

Prairie Fires.

From the earliest settlement of the county down to perhaps 1876 or later, destructive prairie fires annually visited us, and they were especially severe during the falls of 1862 and 1867. None of the old pioneers will ever forget these terrible fires. During the earlier years the fires were of course fiercer and wilder, but not so destructive for the reason the country then was so sparcely settled. Houses, grain and hay stacks, and sometimes stock and people, were destroyed by these wild fires. Every fall, or perhaps spring, the vast prairies would be swept by these fires, and they kept the settlers in constant fear and dread. Perhaps no recollection of events is

to me more vivid than that of these annual fires, and more than once did we come near being "burned out," or having much property destroyed. After the first one or two hard frosts in the fall, and even up until the snow came, the settler looked for and expected these visitations. All the long weeks during the fall, the air would be hazy with smoke from prairie fires either near by or far away, and always accompanied by that peculiar odor of burned wild grass which filled the air.

There was a sense of wildness and danger about all this, that in spite of the anxiety and dread which each one shared, that lent a charm to the scene. The settlers would now break a few furrows around his home and hay and grain stacks, and then a second line of furrows five or ten rods from the first one, and then during a quiet day set fire to the wild grass between these two strips and burn it off This was his "fire brake." But often the fire would come sweeping along at a race-horse gate, jump this "fire brake" as easily as though it was only an Indian trail, and destroy everything in its path. These fires gathered wind, and when the grass was heavy and tall, as it was in the early days, it was terrible, and nothing could stand before it.

These fires always burned and advanced in a broad V shaped form—broadening and widening as it advanced, and would sometimes jump twenty to forty rods, "catch" and continue on. A great prairie fire would sometimes advance with the mad rush of the wind for miles and miles over the country, when the wind would suddenly shift, and blow from a contrary direction, compelling it to "back fire" or burn against the wind. This was watched day and night by the settlers, as they knew only too well that at any moment the wind might change and the fire come on again in its mad rush. Well do I remember how night after night we, with other settlers, would watch the distant fires, ready at a moments notice with bundles of hazle brush, mops and wet rags, to begin "back firing" to save ours or others property. And distinctly do I recall what fierce times we would have fighting the flames, sometimes all day long and far into the night. The flames would momentarily become less fierce as the wind died down, and then breeze up again, and only too often the fire would spread with renewed fury over the ground we had gained, and we all be compelled to run and wait our chance to fight it again. Inch by inch we would gain upon it only to be overwhelmed by it and compelled to again retreat. The men, women and children had to fight for dear life. Sometimes we would conquer, sometimes not. All were nearly roasted and blistered by the fierce heat and blackened by the dense smoke. It was like fighting the fiends of hell. But home and all we held dear depended upon it, and all must fight—and we did. Beyond, the prairies were black and dead, covered with ashes of the burned grass, and whirlwinds passed hither and thither over it carrying great black columns of ashes far up into the clouds. The roar and crackling of the flames as they rushed through the tall grass, and the heavy billows of smoke, were indeed appalling, and only by those accustomed to such wild scenes of danger and destruction could they be baced. In spite of all efforts, sometimes the settlers home and all he possessed on earth would be swept away by these fierce demons of hell, and all he would have left would be the few smouldering ruins on the prairie.

One day, about the middle of October, 1859, one of our neighbors, Mr. Llewellyn Whitney, now of Rockford, had observed a prairie fire a few miles away to the southeast, and had anxiously watched it, but as the wind was in the opposite direction and it was backing against the wind, they did not apprehend much danger from it for a few hours, so they sat down to eat. While at the meal, smoke began to pour into the room, and on looking out they found they were surrounded by the prairie fire and the east part of their house was all ablaze. The wind had suddenly veered to the southeast and the fire had come down on them with terrible speed, They were forced to break the windows and climb out of the house through them in order to save their lives. Everything was destroyed, together with a pen of hogs, and grain and hay stacks standing near. But they were only too glad they were able to escape from the fury of the flames with their own lives. These fires would often burn for weeks in the sloughs where the peat was more or less dry, and was often a standing menace to the settler, ready at any moment to break out again providing there was yet more grass to burn. A prairie fire at night was a wild and grand sight. Every spring and fall the evening sky would be lit up by the lurid glow of innumerable prairie fires all around, and the air be loaded with their smoke. These fires would be started in various ways, sometimes people out of "pure cussedness" and the desire to see it burn, would start them, while sometimes they would be started by getting away from the settler as he was attempting to burn a fire brake around his house and grain stacks.

The Old Rail Bins and Straw Sheds.

There was but little lumber of any kind in the country in early days save the small amount furnished by the few primitive saw mills. So the people had to depend upon their own resources to secure material for their buildings of various kinds. Their corn cribs were made of rails laid up "cob-house" fashion with a bottom constructed by laying rails close together. Into this the corn was thrown, and afterwards the top covered with straw—to keep out the snow and rain—or else left uncovered, as the case might be.

The grain bins were made like the corn cribs, only they were lined with straw or coarse wild hay, and the wheat and oats turned in. The top was always covered by laying rails across and then piling on a sufficient amount of straw or wild grass to shed the rain. For very many years this was the best granary the settlers could afford.

There were no barns then, for the very best the country could produce was the old straw shed, and many of the settlers did not even have so good a shelter as that for their stock. In the fall, just before threshing time, a framework of poles and posts would be made conveniently near to the grain stacks, and afterwards the straw carrier of the thrashing machine would be run up over this shed and the straw piled up over it, leaving only one or two places for doorways to the shed. The floor of course was only the natural ground. This shed so long as it was whole, was warm and comfortable for the stock in the winter, but the straw would settle and leave great holes for the cold winds and the snow to creep through, and required constant watching and stuffing up to keep it comfortable. Again the stock appeared to take a fiendish delight in eating out the banking, no matter how musty or rotten it might be. The very best of wild hay, and corn, would be left in order to eat down the shed. We boys on the farm believed the stock took a greater delight in getting a peep of daylight through a hole they had eaten through the banking than in almost any thing else. This job of banking up the shed, was an endless one. No matter what else there might be on hand, this had to be attended to. I have always thought that perhaps one reason why so many boys then became discontented and left the farm, was owing to the eternal job of banking up the old straw shed.

As I have stated, some of the settlers didn't have even a straw shed for their stock, but let them run out and shirk for themselves The stock would then, to protect themselves from the fierce storms and cold blasts of winter, seek the timber, or else be obliged to shelter themselves on the sunny side of a rail fence, or beside some half-eaten straw pile. Very often the straw pile would be so eaten around that the top would fall over on to some of the cattle and smother them. Again, great holes would be eaten into the stacks, so large that one or two animals could almost get in out of sight in them.

Now the cattle and horses were not the only stock the settler had for he usually kept a goodly flock of chickens of the "dung hill" variety. They were, however, exempt from the "mites," cholera, and many other small ailments that the present high grade and full blood varieties are heir to. The chickens then, were hardy and exempt from gapes, roupe, flees, and wouldn't "sun scald, frost, or blight." They were not so good layers as the pure bloods of the present, but then they didn't have such good care. But perhaps the most interesting kind of stock, from some points of view, which the people raised, was the hog. This variety of his hogship was commonly denominated wind-splitter or prairie-rooter. They were long, gaunt, and thin as a rail, with a long proboscis-like snout admirably adapted to maintain its proverbial propensity to root, and was commonly believed to be able to easily clear a six rail fence at a jump, or out run a horse. They were for a long time permitted to run wild, and

like some of their bi-ped relatives often proved a nuisance by getting their nose in where it did not belong. It used to be stated that the wind-splitter's propensity to root was so great that their owners often took advantage of it to plow their land, which was in this wise: An ear of corn would be placed just below the surface of the ground on the opposite side of a forty acre lot, and the hog be driven to a point opposite on the other side of the field, and here scenting the ear of corn he would begin to root for it, thus plowing a furrow straight through. As this variety of hog was always possessed of an insatiable appetite, another ear would be placed in the ground on the side of the field from whence his hogship first started, and then he would root his way back after the second ear. In this way they said much of the plowing was done in those early days.

One thing, however, is certain, this hog was hardy and "proof against death and the devil." Today this variety of four-footed quadruped has become extinct in this county and his place has been taken by the high-grade Poland China, Berkshire and Chester Whites.

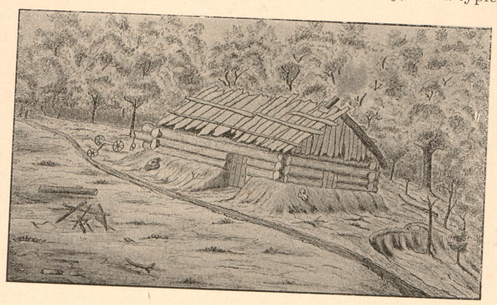
Mosquito Smudges.

There was only one effective remedy known to the pioneer against the attacks of this insect, this was a "smudge." A pan full of chips would be placed in the doorway and set on fire and allowed to burn slowly and "smudge," but never come to a blaze. The insects could not stand this smoke, and it has since seemed a wonder to me how the settler could.

Some People I Have Known.

A strange character, living on Flood Creek, was "Old Naber." He came to this region in an early day and bought him a small farm on the west side of the Creek, cleared it up, and lived on it until 1890, when he sold it and went to Germany. He was a German by birth, and a bachelor. He lived alone in a rather large log house for many years, but afterwards pulled it down and built a small log hut among the brush and timber on the high precipitious bank of the creek on the north side of his farm. This cabin was small, low and dirty, and was banked up half way to the eaves on the outside. His chickens and dog usually lived in the same room with him and ate out of the same dishes.

He would eat skunks, rats and even dead animals he found around; was filthy in the extreme in his habits and methods of life; more so even than many Indians I have seen. I knew him well for more than twenty-five years, and the peculiar methods of life he followed all this time. Sometimes he would wear stiff leather



Old Naber's Cabin on Flood Creek, Floyd County, Iowa.

breeches, especially when I first knew him. He had a peculiar habit of collecting and hanging on the limbs of small trees around his hut, old barrel hoops, bones, animal skulls, etc., and on the banking around his hut he would place old horse skulls, and also suspend them from the projecting logs at the corners of his cabin. He would sometimes be asked why he lived in this way; and he would reply that he thought he would have to change his methods of life, as it was "beginning to tell on him." The one room of his cabin was divided into two parts, and in the west part he kept his grain, etc He was fairly good looking (when clean), and a reasonably intelligent man; but none knew the secret of his life or why he chose to live as he did. He finally sold his place and went to Germany. Just after landing from the steamer, and while walking along the streets of the city, he fell dead; and so ended his strange and peculiar career. Just before Old Naber left Flood Creek, I made a drawing of his hut, which is here shown.

On Flood Creek, a few miles north from Old Naber's, lived another strange character; and, like Old Naber, was a German and lived alone. His abode was a low primitive sod shanty. His methods of life were somewhat like Naber's, but not so degraded. His name was Myers. At one time, some years ago, he became sick and unable to cut his wood. He managed, however, to drag in some old rails, one end of which he run into his old stove door to burn. In some way the cabin caught on fire and burned down, and he was burned with it, or at least was so injured that he very soon died.

W P. Gaylord, was another man, known by all in the county, and, in fact, quite well known throughout the state. He was a man of fine ability, and a typical pioneer—being one of the very earliest settlers in the northwest part of the county. He settled in the woods, where was afterwards located the town of Nora Springs. He it was who collected much of the material for the "Floyd County History" before spoken of, and in which very frequent mention is made of him. Through his influence an "Old Settler's Association" was formed at Nora Springs some twenty years ago. There meetings were of great interest to the old settlers, although the association had little more than a nominal existance.

It would, indeed, be a good thing could there now be organized an Old Settlers association. Mr. Gaylord always took an active interest in all their meetings.

Mrs. R. A. Pelton, now a resident of Charles City, came to Deerfield in the early pioneer days. They opened up a farm in the timber on the east bank of the Wapsie. Their's was the typical life and experience of the pioneer. Mr. Pelton died some years ago. At the time of their first coming to that region, deer and other wild game was plentiful, and the Indians sometimes camped near them.

For a time Mrs. Pelton taught the only school in that region. The school house was low and small and built of logs. Even on the border then, there was a struggle after an education, and an aiming for higher things. During the Indian scare in 1862, the settlers of Deerfield shared in the dread experienced by nearly all the old settlers of northern Iowa. Wild rumors often reached them that "the Indians were coming." On one occasion the report came in that the Indians were almost upon them, which produced great consternation, and many of the settlers fled for their lives, leaving nearly all their possessions behind. It was a false alarm, however, and all soon came back. As is very often the case, those settlers who were the greatest cowards then, were the bravest and most boastful when there was no danger around.

Mr. L. J Fox, now engaged in business in our city, was another old settler. He at different times lived in Floyd, Mitchell and Howard counties. This county back in the 50's when he first came, was a wild unbroken land The deer and the elk still disputed the possession of the regions with the white man; and the fauna and the flora was new—or rather old, for it was the same as had occupied the regions since the distant glacial period. His experience in wading sloughs, fording swolen streams, camping out and traveling overland to market, was like that of other settlers of the time.

He has lived to see those trackless prairies made to blossom as the rose, and the almost entire disappearance of the old primeval fauna and flora which he then knew so well. He is a jolly sort of a man, and had some amusing experiences, as well as "hard knocks," during the early days.

The early day experience of Mrs. H. C. Smith—now Mrs. John Heath, of Charles City—in Charles City, is of special interest. She arrived in St. Charles with her husband, on the 13th of August, 1855, and so became familiar with the early history of our beautiful city. She came from the little town of Elton, Ill., and their overland journey was full of interest, although on some occasions it was difficult to see just where the pleasure came in. Regarding this journey she says: "Our journey was much the same as all emigrants experienced in those days. I will only mention two or three incidents which left a lasting impression on my mind. We had come on our journey two days this side of Dubuque, when we encountered one of those slough holes which the country was famous for at that time. After

some discussions as to the best place to cross, my husband took the lines, and, full of hope that we were right in the course we were taking, went forward. But alas! he hadn't gone two lengths of the wagon when the horses went down and the front wheels sank in over the hubs. Sure enough we were in a sad plight. Off came their boots and socks, pants rolled up as far as possible and all three men walked in to

Mrs. H. C. Heath.

unfasten the horses, so they could help themselves. And as I now look back and think of dear old Tige and Nellie, and remember the intelligence of our dumb friends, I can't keep the tears from coming.

The moment the horses were safe on dry land, they turned toward us and began to show their anxiety for the human portion or members of the family, and neither did they stop surveying us until we were all safe on the other side of the slough.

It is useless to describe our looks after coming through the mud. All who have gone through the same trouble can draw the picture. The next thing to do was to get the wagon out, which was no easy job, for it was heavily loaded.

Fortunately there was a rail beside the mud hole that some other unfortunate had used and left for others who might be in the same fix. The horses were hitched to a log chain which was fastened to the tongue of the wagon, then Mr. Simmonds and Alfred Smith waded in with their rail, and placing it under the wagon, my husband taking the lines and urging the horses to do their best, which they willingly did. The men lifted only as men can lift under such circumstances, but to no avail, not one inch could they move the wagon. The men sank deeper and deeper in the mud, and were covered with it from head to foot, and finally had to give up the job.

The day was one of extreme heat, and such tired, thirsty men it would be hard to find in this beautiful city now. Eliza Smith and I volunteered to go and get some water so that they might have a drink before again trying to extricate the wagon. We started for water, with orders to bring a man with a yoke of oxen to help us, the horses not being shod, could not get a foothold. We had to go about one mile to reach the nearest house, and in fact the only one for miles around. We had got the water and secured the man with the oxen who was breaking up some land near by, and was returning when we were overtaken by a man that was going five miles back to a blacksmith shop to get some work done. Of course we stepped out of the road to let him pass, as it was the custom of the country at that time. He stopped his gray nag as he got opposite us, and asked where we were going, and what we were doing there. While we were talking to him he said; 'madam, you had better move from there, as there is a rattle snake in the grass by your feet.'

A rattle snake had given its peculiar signal, but I didn't understand it. Looking down I saw his snakeship about to spring at me. It is useless for me to say that I was not as polite in getting into the wagon as I was in stepping out of the road for it. The gentleman carried us back to the rest of our party who was waiting with some anxiety for us, as we had been gone some time. Soon after, the good Samaritan arrived with his oxen, and it was not two minutes before our wagon was on tera firma and we were ready to start on again. I must say I praised those oxen then, and have always imagined since that they were made for the use of people who get into slough holes. And I have since thought how nice it would be if people, in going through life, could only get out of slough holes of trouble even with the aid of a yoke of cattle.

I will only mention one or two other incidents of our journey, for in this line nearly all early settlers had much the same experience. On this trip, we stopped at a Mr. Lebois, twelve miles this side of Independence. Many of the early settlers will remember the place as it was the most comfortable hotel this side of Dubuque. It was built of logs, two stories high, and well ventilated. It stood in a grove on the bank of the Cedar river. Across the road were good barns and sheds for tired horses. It was a great comfort to know that our best friends were as comfortable as we were. After a good supper, a good night's rest, and a good breakfast in the morning, we started on our journey again at half past four a. m , so we could have a long day and make the most possible of it, as we were very tired and longing for rest and a home of some kind.

Alfred Smith slept in the wagon nights to care for things there. A tick filled with straw served him for a bed, and for the children or others to rest on during the day if they wished to. We camped for our dinner at some place where water was convenient. Sometimes in the early morning Alfred would take his gun and start out on the prairie, making a circle so as to always keep the wagon in sight, and shoot prairie chickens or pheasants, for our dinner. But on this particular morning he would not go, neither would he give any reason for his not going. So you who have never cooked a dinner out of your own lovely house, should take an overland journey to some place beyond civilization, and enjoy the luxury of a dinner cooked by yourself and out of doors; it will give you strength in many ways.

We always provided ourselves with bread and potatoes where we stopped over night. If we couldn't get bread, we used crackers instead, as we had provided ourselves with a large quantity before leaving home. And 'Hambug cheese,' I have never cared for that diet since that memorable time.

We had started early on this day, and as the sun rose higher and higher, the little ones began crying for dinner; so just before noon we concluded to make a stop and cook what we had—which was salt pork and potatoes. On examining the pork, however, we found that the long days of jolting and the heat had spoiled it, and we were obliged to throw it away. We hung the kettle of potatoes over the fire which had just been built, and was preparing the coffee, when Alfred went to the wagon and brought forth two of the fattest hens you ever saw. He had hidden them in a box in the wagon where he kept some tools. He laid the birds on the ground beside his gun and watched our movements, but wouldn't speak. We forgot our unkind thoughts toward him for not hunting prairie chickens in the morning, and all exclaimed in one breath, 'where did you get those hens?' He replied that they came and roosted on his feet in the wagon the night before, and that he wouldn't allow any man's hens to do that. We were on good terms in a moment with him then, and he was our hero for some time after.

Now I wish to say to all, or to any one contemplating taking such a trip, be sure to have one ugly person with you, as otherwise you will loose much that goes to break up the monotony of the journey. It was not long before we had the chickens cooking, and we were grateful for them, although they hadn't been "polite hens" in their manner of roosting. I wish all who read this could have had a taste of our chicken gravy and potatoes grown under Iowa sod,—'peach blows' if you please. Well, the day was passing, and we were trying to reach a Mr. Brown's, that lived about sixteen miles from St. Charles, and we would have to make a big day's drive to do it. As evening approached, we all became anxious, and the team very tired, as it had proven the hardest day's journey we had yet experienced. Brown's was the only place at which we could stop before reaching the chosen land. The settlers became more and more scattered as we got back into the state at that time. We traveled as fast as our tired horses could go, and early twilight found us in the center of a large prairie. The stars were begining to show themselves very dimly, the children were sleeping and we were all looking for some sign of human habitation, when Mr. Smith stopped his team. With a mothers instinct we hugged our sleeping babies close, for quick as thought, we realized we were lost. For one moment we truly had the same feeling that ship-wrecked men and women might have in the middle of the ocean. Not one thing could be heard, save the gentle swaying of the grass, for we had lost our road. The grass reached to the top of the wheels. The hard breathing of the horses, with an occasional chirp of the cricket in his grassy bed, were the sounds we heard as we listened. I spoke and said to my husband, 'You have lost your way!' His only reply was a low whistle and scratching his head—which was always his way when he was troubled. He stepped out onto the tongue of the wagon, and after looking for a few moments, he gave another whistle and said, 'We are all right, I know where we are now.' Welcome words I can assure you; for a night on the prairie, tired and hungry as we were, was not a very desirable outlook. Well, our horses were turned around, and we all saw in the distance a house, as we supposed. But place yourselves in our position for one moment and imagine our disappointment and surprise, when on reaching it, it proved to be a big boulder, at least 10 feet high and as many thick. Again did we suffer for a few moments from the thought that we were doomed to a night on the prairie. But our sorrow was soon dispelled, for Mr. Smith said, 'I was looking for this land mark, and now know where we are.' Again our horses were turned and after a few moments more of travel, we saw a dim light ahead of us. How welcome! No gas or electric light ever appeared to us one-half so bright, as did the light from that one tallow candle shining from the window of that settler's cabin. It told us of shelter, food and companions, in this lonely spot. We soon reached the place, and when we asked for shelter the lady said she could not entertain us as she was sick; and no wonder when she saw a prospective nine added to her household. I don't see how she could have thought of it for one moment. I told her we would take care of ourselves, wait on her family, and pay well for the accommodation besides, if we could only stay indoors. I shall never forget her dear face as she looked at us with such meek pity. Our own looks told plainly—and expressed more than words—how we felt. 'Come in,' she said, 'and we will do the best we can.' Her family numbered three, her husband, brother and herself. She was just beginning to get her supper, as it was in harvest time, and the men were at work yet in the harvest field by moonlight, so they could rest during the hottest part of the day.

The prospects of something to eat, rested us all. Mr. Simmonds got a pail of water, Alfred Smith split some wood, and my husband brought some of it in. While I built a fire, Eliza Smith washed the potatoes. Mr. Simmonds got the kettles and Mrs. Brown made a Johnny cake—and such a cake. She had one of the largest old fashioned elevated stoves, a big oven and dripping pan to match. You should have seen how the Johnny cake raised. We all looked at it and got one smell, as nothing ever cooked could compare with the aroma and flavor of that cake. It raised and raised, until we were about to command its proud ways to be still, when a beautiful brown crust formed on the top, and we left it for other things that needed our attention. Then as supper was well on its way, Mrs. Brown took up a tin horn to call her husband and brother to come to supper. I asked her to let me blow it. 'Yes,' she said, 'and they will come on the run, for they will know I didn't blow it.' I blew the horn, and sure enough, they did come on the double quick, thinking something dreadful had happened. They had been in a part of the field where they didn't see our arrival. Soon after they come in, our potatoes were drained, the tea steaped in a bright tin teapot, and placed on the table, which was covered by a snow white cloth. The potatoes formed a small hill in the center, being served up in a bright tin pan, with jackets on, and a large dish of butter gravey (called 'drawn butter' now), and a large plate of Johnny cake flanked each side of the potatoes. I tell you it was a meal that kings and queens might relish. After we were seated and the little ones waited on, we did not wait for politics or religion to be discussed.

How I wish you could have seen those good things disappear; and neither did we stop until there was nothing left of the potatoes but their jackets, and all that was left of the Johnny cake was the dripping pan and the place where it had been. We all helped to do up the work, and when everything was ready for the night, Mr. Brown handed me the bible and asked me to select a chapter and read it. I cannot remember now which one of the Psalms I read. However, I read one of them, and after he had asked for protection to surround his home, and for safety and success for the strangers within his gates, we sought the repose we all needed so much for mind and body.

I must speak of one of the kind acts of this family before leaving them. They were out of flour and that we might have the best, Mr. Brown took his horse at three in the morning and went four miles for some flour, in order to have some white bread or biscuits for breakfast. I speak of this more particularly to show the self sacrificing nature of most of those people who came to Iowa in the early days, and Mr. Brown and his family were not behind anyone in this respect. How many times have I thought and spoken of their kindness to us.

We didn't get started as early as usual, for we had only the sixteen miles to make that day, and we were all unwilling to leave the good people we had met in this strange land to us.

We were all looking forward to a good home and good food and a few days rest, when we should reach St. Charles, for when Mr. Smith was in St. Charles in May, Messrs. Gilbert and Pooler were getting ready to build their hotel; and we supposed it would be ready for the use of the public by the time we reached there.

Our journey from Mr. Brown's was mostly over a beautiful rolling prairie with tall waving grass everywhere, which swept away in great billows as the wind played over it. When we reached the top of what is now known as 'Waverly hill', I was driving, the men all walking. The drivers seat was a board placed on the wagon box and extending over so as to make more room in the box. My feet rested on the whiffletrees. My husband called a halt when we reached the hill. He said, 'you can now see the city where you are going to live.' We were on our feet in a moment, and in the same breath cried, where! for there was nothing to be seen. We could not see any thing that looked like a town, great or small. Gilbert and Pooler had raised their hotel as they expected to, but before they could get in enclosed, St. Charles was visited by one of those half hurricane winds, which had blown the whole frame flat to the ground. It happened that the day we arrived was the day they were raising the frame the second time.

Someone saw our wagon, or prairie schooner, as they were called in this country at that time, and all started to give us a welcome as soon as we should cross the river. They had to wait a little while as Mr. Smith proposed going to the spring, just below the old ford, for a drink, to cheer us up.

We all started to see who should get to the spring first to drink. Mr. Smith in his haste tripped and fell, rolling almost into the river before he could stop. Eliza Smith was the victor.

How well I remember—no introductions in those days, and when we had crossed the river, such a welcome as we recived, such hand shaking and words of encouragment as we heard from everyone, ought to have cheered us all in any condition of life.

THE OLD HOME.

I remember the spot on the prairie,
An' the farm where I used ter roam,
When all the old folks was livin',
An' us children was small an' at home:
The house was a little board shanty,
With cotton woods roun' the door,
An' the barn was straw roofed an' leanin,
With only bare groun' fer the floor.

The summers seemed longer than now days
An' the air more restful an' sweet,
Kinder lullin' an' dream like, somehow,
With jest enough breeze ter be neat;
An' the peep-frogs, an' black birds by millions
Would gather an' sing all aroun,'
What allus did blen' like in natur',
'Twixt which ye could barely tell soun'.

It was pleasin' ter set in the spring time
An' see the sun creep o'er the land,
As the cattle 'cross the medder,
Went feedin' so c'am an' so bland;
When the dew glistened up from the blue joint
As bright as the flowers in May,
An' the woodland was fuzzy an' smoky,
From the grass that burned 'cross the way.

We allus was workin' at sunrise;
An' we turned out jest about night,
They said 'twas a pity ter idle,
When days was so biigin an' bright;
'Sides, then 'twa'nt displeasin' (sometimes) ter labor,
'Twas the necessitous thing of the home;
But, now days, folks think it's the saddest,
An' avoid it wherever they roam.

An' we never went cryin' fer riches—fer 'twant ter be had,
Like now days folks worry an' fuss;
But we'd jest keep up with the neighbors,
An' help 'em ter keep up with us.
We never complained o' Dame Natur'
'Cause she didn't grow 'ceeding good hay,
Fer what she lacked mostly in one crop,
Was brung in in some other way.

If I was ter die this here minnet,
My hones' conviction would be,
The more I tho't 'bout the old homestead
The closer to heaven I'd see;
Fer, somehow, it comes to me glowin'
With wonderful, sad-feelin' tears—
Its ways was so 'mazin'ly happy (sumtimes),
An' difer'nt than later on years.

The Old Trapper.

In reviewing the past and early settlement of this part of Iowa, it may be well to call attention to a class of men—the very earliest of the pioneers—who preceeded the actual settlers in the occupancy of this part of the state, and who by themselves formed a class peculiar to every new country, and have ever trod close upon the heels of the departing Indian. We here refer to the old trapper.

For some reason, reference is scarcely, if ever, made to this class of men, although always the first to occupy a new country; and a class who, although in perhaps a peculiar way, has benefited the country and society much.

Floyd and other counties in this part of our state, has had her share of these interesting characters, several of whom were, and still are, well known to the writer. Among these may be mentioned Mr. Chas. Taylor, now at Dartford, Wis., and Mr. Jake Deal, of Rockford, this county. Mr. Taylor was an old and successful trapper along in the very earliest pioneer days of this part of Iowa, and his line of traps was run mainly up and down the Little Cedar, from Bradford to the

Minnesota line, and he states that of all the fine trapping grounds in northern Iowa in those early days, this stream was the best; and then come the Wapsie, some miles to the east.

Along the Little Cedar then, deer and elk occurred in large numbers, and black bear, wild cats and coons were abundant in the timber along this stream. Along this stream too, were large numbers of mink, muskrats, otter and beaver; the latter at intervals throwing their dams across the stream to deepen the water and form ponds, or set backs. What was true regarding the game along the Little Cedar, was also true, to a greater or less extent, of every stream in Floyd county and those adjoining, the smaller streams, however, being the richest trapping grounds; although the Big Cedar and Shell Rock were by no means poor.

The Big and Little Beaver's, Beaver Dam Brook—now sometimes called Whiskey Creek—Cold Water and Flood Creek, all of the western portion of this county, will ever be remembered by the old trappers as wonderfully rich fields for the plying of their calling in those old days. Their usual method was to string their line of traps along the various streams for a distance of from twenty to sixty miles or more, sometimes extending them into Minnesota from this locality. They would usually have their home camp, which was a rude primitive log cabin, at some point in the heavier timber along the Shell Rock, Big and Little Cedar Rivers, in this county. Sometimes, however, they would for a long time, make their headquarters in a common tent not infrequently pitched in some small prairie grove near their line of traps. The game taken in their traps, they would skin and take along with them, resetting their traps as they went, and finally bring them to their home camp. In the spring, or at the close of their trapping season, which was usually in May or June, their stock of furs would be gathered up and "packed" to Cedar Falls, Dubuque, McGregor and sometimes to St. Paul, Minn., to be sold. At other times the skins would be disposed of to fur traders who constantly traversed the country buying up pelts.

It was a wild life these men followed, and in full keeping with this then equally wild country. This calling, however, was generally a remunerative one as "fur" was so plentiful, and then mink skins would sometimes—especially in "war times"—bring as high as $3 each. Until long after the first actual settlers came, these men still continued to ply (and successfully too) their interesting vocation.

And even now, at this late day, we occasionally see members of this peculiar class pursuing their now unremunerative calling.

Early Incidents and Events.

In 1864, the "Idaho fever" struck the country, and thousands of people emigrated to that "land of promise." Many from Floyd county and other portions of northern Iowa left their homes here to find a better one in that western land. St Joseph, Missouri, was the main "outfitting" point for most of these emigrants in passing over the plains, and about 200 wagons left this point every day for Idaho.

Large quantities of maple sugar has been made in Floyd and Mitchell counties the present spring, which will save many a dollar to our citizens that otherwise would need to be sent to a foreign market. Maple sugar is bought and sold by our merchants at 15 cents per pound, and in many respects it is superior to New Orleans sugar, for which 20 cents per pound is charged.—INTELLIGENCER, April 14, 1864.

In 1858 the first session of the Floyd County Agricultural society was held.

Charles City.

The above is now the name of our post office, the post office name of this place having been changed from St. Charles City. Will our exchanges and correspondents govern themselves accordingly, and direct to Charles City, Floyd County Iowa.—INTELLIGENCER, Nov. 7, 1861.

Two or three years prior to 1861, a mail route was established by congress from McGregor via Ft. Atkinson, "St. Charles City," Rockford, Mason City and Algona to the Sioux River; but upon a part of this route, even in 1861, there was no service. This worked a positive hardship for many settlers, and was the cause of much complaint among them.

From the earliest settlement of the county, down to 1876, or later, nearly every farmer would burn his straw in the field as soon as the threshing machine had pulled out; and not infrequently have I seen these same men, who burned their straw in the fall, around the next spring begging the privilege of his less foolish neighbors—and they were scarce—for the privilege of digging into a two year old straw stack to get a little straw to feed their stock. Today the farmer has outgrown this foolish and wasteful practice. He now carefully stacks and saves his straw, and either feeds it or sells it to be bailed and shipped.

During the season of 1874, the northwestern portion of this state was visited with vast hordes of grasshoppers which destroyed all the crops, leaving the settlers destitute of the means of subsistence, and often in a positively starving condition. In response to an earnest appeal for assistance to aid these unfortunate people, Floyd county responded, in various ways, most generously.

During the season of 1874, there was a great rush to Dakota, thousands of people being attacked with that peculiar western malady, a "land fever." Many from this county sold out and went to the "new eldorado," and hundreds of prairie schooners poured through this region bound for the same land of promise. Not infrequently did we see painted on these canvass coverings, peculiar and unique legends; one schooner in particular we remember which was appropriately labeled. "DEQOTA OR bUST!"

A year, and less, from that date, many of these enthusiastics were seen returning from the "land of the Decotahs," and in addition to the label they bore on their outward trip, others equally suggestive had been painted on the other side, one of which I remember was, "BUSTeD By ThUNDER!"

One of the greatest drouths which had visited this county up to 1874, was present with us on that season. An item regarding this we clip from the INTELLIGENCER, under date of June 4, 1874: "The protracted drouth is working great injury to the crops, and is especially fatal to shade and fruit trees planted this spring. The wells are dry, and many farmers haul their supply of water from the river. Old settlers tell us that never before since the county has been settled, has rain been more needed than at present."

An old pioneer once said, "When I die, I am going to leave behind me, as a heritage for my children, the home where they were born made as beautiful as my means and uneducated taste would allow; pleasant memories of the home fireside and of the summer days, and a true regard for the dignity and worthiness of the calling their father followed."

About the middle of December, 1862, Mr. N. Weeks, of Rockford, started for Boston, Mass., with a freight of prairie chickens, furs, etc., for that market.

During the third week of October 1862, prairie fires raged terribly over the vast prairies of Floyd and some of the adjoining counties, doing considerable damage to property, etc.

In early days, goods were sold for "cash or dicker," which is shown by the following advertisement, which appers in an old number of the INTELLIGENCER, under date of December 4, 1862:

"Produce Wanted."

"All kinds of produce taken in exchange for goods at our store at Floyd, such as wheat, hides, butter, eggs, etc. Prices the same as in Charles City. Floyd, Nov. 1862.

LEHMKUHL & Co.

About the first of January, 1860, a cold wave struck this region, and in fact extending over a large part of the northern and eastern portions of the United States. The thermometer here went from 22 degrees below zero to 43 degrees below in a few days. At this period there was more or less suffering from the severity of the weather among the settlers.

One of the very last elks from this portion of our state, so far as I have been able to ascertain, was the one shipped from Bradford, Chickasaw county, Iowa, on Nov. 1, 1860. Regarding this event we clip from the Bradford News under the above date: "An Elk." Our fellow townsman, Mr. Peter Perkins, this morning, sent to McGregor, en route to Williamstown, Mass., a fine specimen of the American elk. He is 4 years old, and the height of his antlers from the ground is about 8 feet. He is consigned to Prof. A. Hopkins, of Williams College, and will be kept in the park as an addition to the collection of curiosities in natural history. He is one of the last of his race in this region.

The average yield of wheat per acre in Floyd county and throughout the state in general, was, in 1860, 16 bushels per acre, which was 25 per cent. better than for years previous. On the 16th of August that year, wheet in Milwaukee (the Chicago of the west then) was worth from $1 to $1.12 per bushel.

From 1854 to 1860 and later, harvest hands in a single field numbered from two to twelve or more, all with hand rakes, binding on the ground. All this work, save the shocking, is now done by machinery. So much for our wonderful advancement in a few years.

On Feb. 9, 1858, a thaw and a freshet done great damage in the county, carrying away the primitive bridges, destroying dams, mills, etc.

Twenty-three years ago, or in 1875, there were 100 school houses in Floyd county, 118 teachers, 102 schools and 4,917 children entitled to the public fund.

The Iowa Fur Trade.

"All the main streams of Iowa, have during the last winter and spring swarmed with fur bearing animals. Trapping has been carried on very successfully, and although the prices for fur has not ranged as high as during some years, a larger aggregate income has been realized than during any corresponding period. One intelligent trader informed us recently that in his judgment enough money had been realized from this source, since October last, to pay the entire tax of the state for the present year."—INTELLIGENCER, May 24, 1860.

During the above periods hunting and trapping in Floyd county proved a profitable business, and a large amount of revenue was realized by those engaged in this business.

The LaCrosse Union, Wisconsin, of March, 1860, says: "That place has been one of the most important for receiving and shipping furs in the northwest. Heavy shipments are made there every week. Mr. L. B. Maddling, agent at that place for the North American Fur Co., came home the other day bringing over 2,000 muskrats, 75 minks, 50 coons, 22 otters, 20 deer, 11 foxes, 8 beavers, 6 badgers, 5 martins, 5 wolves, 3 bears, 2 fishers, and 2 wild cats. The otters were taken near Spirit Lake, Iowa. The cats and mink were taken up the Chippewa river and in Minnesota, mostly by the Indians.

Most of the furs taken in this county, as well as those taken in other portions of the state, ultimately found their way into this companies hands, and very often in fact, this companies agents traveled through this portion of Iowa buying up the pelts trapped here.

Wild Fowl.

From about the 4th to the 20th of March, 1860, great numbers of wild fowls, such as swans, geese, brant, cranes, ducks, etc., were seen here on their spring migration to the north. Very many of these birds stopped for considerable periods, in various portions of the county, and furnished sportsmen with an abundance of the finest shooting. Today, but very few of any of these birds stop with us; and as for the swans—which were once not so rare—they are very rarely seen, and scarcely, if ever, stop with us.

The Exodus to Pike's Peak.

During 1859 and 1860, great strings of emigrants passed through Floyd county for the gold fields of the west, Pike's Peak being the objective point sought by most of them. Many of the settlers of this county "got the fever" and pulled up stakes and joined the moving throng Horses, mules and oxen were used, some people went on foot. Often the canvas covers of the prairie schooners would bear the "Pike's PEAK or BUST" legend, as well as various others equally striking. The main topic of conversation among nearly all was the "gold fields of Pike's Peak." To show more fully the general feeling of excitement existing at that time, and, something of the outcome of it, I quote the following reports from various sources, printed at that date: "There will be a large emigration to the gold regions this summer. Many who go will draw heavily upon the property already acquired to raise an outfit, and thus leave their families but poorly protected from want, in case they do not survive the hardships of frontier life and the excitement of the eager scramble after sudden wealth. Confident that loved ones will not be left destitute in case the worst should happen to himself, and the cheerfulness of spirit which such confidence engenders, will often carry one through disease and danger, which, without them would prove fatal. Let accident or disease overtake a man upon the plains, or in the mountains, whose homestead is mortgaged, or whose family is temporally provided for, and as he lies almost unattended upon his blankets, with his saddle for his pillow, and the sky for his roof, let the harrassing thought continually recur, that should he not recover, the suffering of want would soon follow the suffering of sorrow at his home, and the disease will fight with a terrible vantage ground and he will be fortunate indeed, if his vital forces shall obtain the mastery. Hundreds who start full of hope and health, as did hundreds last year, will lie down in unmarked graves, and for many of them the last hours will be comforted only by the howling of the wolf and the sighing of the pines, or the saddening thought of unprotected families."—Milwaukee Sentinel, April, 1860.

Rockford, Iowa, in Early Days.

In 1859, Samuel Pearson owned and run a saw mill on the Shell Rock, in Rockford; and another sawmill was located in Brentner's grove a mile or more above town, and was owned and run by George Brentner. At the above date, the first grist and flouring mill was built in this town.

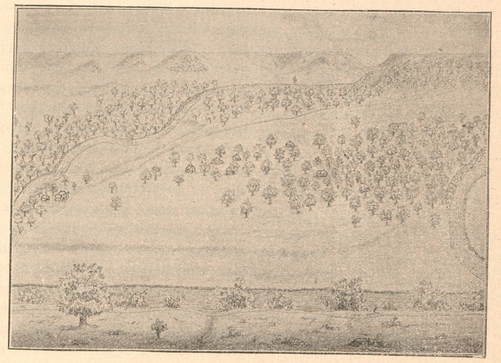
Among some of the business and professional men in Rockford at this date may be mentioned:

Messrs. Smith & Johnson, merchants; J. S. Childs & O. H Lyon, merchants; Robert N Mathews, attorney, Weeks and Bro., cabinet makers; J. Knapp, dentist; E. C. Kimball and E. Cartright, doctors; George Wyatt and E. G Bowden, land agents; the only hotel, the "Rockford House," was run by Ransom Knapp and V. W. Corey. Two religious societies were in existence here—Congregational and Baptist—Rev. S. P. LaDue and Rev. H. H. Burrington, being the pastors.

In August, 1851, John Grace built a small log cabin and made a claim on the south bank of the Shell Rock, and near the northwest corner of the present townsite of Rockford. During the same year he also took up a claim on what is now known as the "Old Buck farm," and erected a log cabin there. He was a hunter, trapper and farmer by occupation. He is believed to be the first actual settler in Rockford township.

Across the river, about three quarters of a mile to the northeast of Grace's first cabin, was afterwards built a small log cabin, and occupied by a trapper. This was on what was afterwards known as the "common land." Close by this cabin flowed Beaver Dam Brook, a little stream of pure water well known to the trappers and Indians of the early days. This stream was a rich trapping ground, and on its headwaters I have seen almost thousands of comical muskrat houses; and lower down beaver, mink and otter were trapped in considerable numbers. Some 22 years ago, when the writer and his brother, Merton, trapped on this stream, the otter and beaver had all disappeared but muskrats and mink were still quite abundant.

In 1859, a stone school house, 26x40, was erected in Rockford, and for several years was the best school house in the county. For many years after the settlement of Rockford, no bridges of any kind spanned the Shell Rock. The stream was forded then—one ford being below the town and near the present railroad bridge, and called the "lower ford;" and another just south of the present cemetery where the "spring brook" empties into the river. During times of high water a ferry was run at the lower ford, it being worked by ropes and pulleys. A portion of the old anchor port then used, remains in a fairly good state of preservation today. This ferry was operated by Mr. George Wyatt, to whom a ferry license was issued September 1, 1858, with the following scale of prices:



Bird's Eye View of Rockford, Iowa, in 1857.

	Cents.
Double carriage, drawn by 2 animals	35
Single carriage, drawn by 1 animal	25
Man and horse	10
Every additional horse	5
Any other animal	5
Footman	3

On the pond above the old sawmill dam, rowboats were used in crossing the stream. During this time an old "dug out" or log canoe, was for a long time used as a means of transportation across this stream—today the Shell Rock is shrunken and shallow like all other streams of the region, but in early days always filled its banks—and was owned by "Bob" Mathews. This old canoe was a curiosity in its way. It was long and heavy, having been hewn out of a large tree trunk, and if not managed by skillful hands, would roll in the water like a log. It was made by some trappers in the early 50's, near Forest City, and about 1852 or 3 was brought by them to old man Beeler, who was then living in a cabin on

Lime Creek on the piece of land he had taken up in 1851 on what is now known as the Dumbolton farm Beeler purchased this canoe, and afterwards sold it to Mr. Mathews. This old canoe played quite an important part in many ways, during those early days.

After a time, through general subscription funds, several foot bridges were built across the Shell Rock where the iron bridge now stands. They were narrow, built on posts, had a railing on one side —sometimes on both—and were normally only a few feet above the water. During times of high water and spring freshets, these bridges were invariably washed out. Sometimes portions of them would be saved by anchoring them to the shore by means of ropes.

In 1865 a good wooden truss bridge was constructed at Rockford across the Shell Rock, at the expense partly of the county and partly of the citizens of Rockford. This bridge lasted until 1875, when it was taken down and the present iron bridge erected, which in 1881 was improved. In 1866 a wooden bridge was constructed across Lime Creek at Elmore's mill. This was swept away by high water in 1877, and the present iron bridge constructed. This bridge is 250 feet in length.

George Wyatt built the first frame house in Rockford, and what is said to be the first in the township. Mr. O. N. Robins soon followed, hauling the lumber from the old Ripley sawmill on the Cedar about six miles below Charles City. John Ferguson opened the first stock of goods in the village.

The name of Rockford was selected by the first proprietors and settlers because the great majority of them were from Rockford, Ill. The name was also considered appropriate from the rocky bottom and sides of the ford in use before any bridge was built. Rockford was incorporated March 16, 1878. The B. C. R., & N. railroad was finished to Rockford, Oct. 13, 1871. The first hotel in Rockford was built and kept in 1856 by Ransom Knapp:

Indian Times.

From 1860 to 1863, while my people lived on the border of the prairie in the northeast part of Rockford, the Winnebago and Pottowattamie Indians often visited us, for their trail ran past our home. Very often they would pitch their camp in the brush within ten rods of our house, and here they would not infrequently have their various dances, etc. Sometimes in building their wick-i-ups, they would cut down the tall hazle brush over a space about ten by fifteen feet in diameter, and then pull the brush at the sides over this space and fasten them together, thus forming an oval dome. Over this they would throw their blankets or skins In these primitive structures they would sleep. They would also weave and paint their baskets while here in camp. For coloring they would dig various wild roots, especially the red root. From these Indians I gained my first knowledge of drawing and painting. These Indians were always friendly, but were great beggars, and we never refused to give them more or less. At one time we raised many melons, and they were allowed to go to the patch and pick what they wanted. They understood the business; and never got a green one. To ascertain whether a watermelon was ripe or not, they would press it quite hard, and if it cracked inside, it was ripe. Sometimes we wouldn't let them into the house, and then they would come to the windows, place their hands to the sides of their faces, press their nose against the glass and for a long time stand here and look in.

Sometimes as high as 300 Indians would pass our house at a time. One time I especially remember there were perhaps 200 or more Indians in the band, consisting of men, women and children. Some were on horse back, and others on foot. Some of the men were dressed in broad cloth and one wore a plug hat obtained in some way from the whites. One old warrior had dangling from his belt a white woman's scalp, with bright golden hair nearly two feet long. We had at that time an Indian pony, but she was mortally afraid of an Indian, and when the wind was in the right direction, would scent them for a long distance. Many people were afraid of these Indian bands, but we never feared them. At intervals from 1859 and earlier, until about 1863, there were Indian scares among, not only the people of Floyd county, but among all the settlers of northern Iowa. Sometimes these reports were only to well founded; at other times they were false alarms. At Spirit Lake, Clear Lake, Forest City and other places a little north of us, fearful massacres of the white settlers had taken place at different times; and a knowledge of these fearful deeds spread fear and dread among the settlers of Floyd and other counties in this portion of the state.

In 1862 the fearful massacre of white settlers at New Ulm and other points just north of us by the Sioux, took place. For perhaps a couple of weeks before this outbreak we had observed that the Indian bands going north were larger and more numerous than they had been before, but did not think much about it. A few days before the news of the uprising of the Indians reached us, an old Indian woman, on her way south, stopped at our home to get something to eat. We had just finished dinner, but put forth more food for her. When she had finished she began talking fast and excitedly to us in her own language, but we told her we could not understand. Then she spoke in broken English, a part of which we understood. Finally reaching for the butcher knife which lay on the table, she made motions as though whetting it and drawing it across her throat, pointed north and exclaimed, "Bad men! no soul! no soul!" We knew she was trying to tell us of something dreadful soon to take place north of us, but could not make out what.

A few days after this, runners came down bringing the news of the Indian outbreak and murder, and warned the people to flee, as the Sioux were coming. We now knew that this Indian woman was trying to tell us of the fearful outbreak which was so soon to take place. There was great excitement then, and many fled in great haste to Cedar Falls and other places south, and all others made hasty preparations to either flee or fight for themselves and their homes if necessary.

Startling events and reports were of daily occurrence then, and every one was filled with apprehension and dread. Only those who have passed through such scenes can form any idea as to the feeling and conditions existing then. A number of men were chosen at Rockford and went north to investigate the condition of things and report, a committee was also sent north from St. Charles on the same mission. Below we give the detailed report brought back by the men sent out from St. Charles, which was printed at the time by the INTELLIGENCER, under date of Sept. 11, 1862:

THE INDIAN WAR.

To the Citizens of Floyd County:

We, the undersigned, a committee appointed and sent by the citizens of Charles City and vicinity, to Minnesota to ascertain the facts connected with the late Indian raid, would respectfully submit the following statement: First, we, with haste, traveled to the Winnebago reserve, and found 100 men stationed there to watch the Winnebagoes and keep them in subjection, though ostensibly to insure their safety against attacks from the Sioux, their old foes. We found there a Sioux prisoner taken by the Winnebagoes. At first the Winnebagoes were divided upon the question of affiliating with the Sioux or helping the citizens. They at last decided to remain friendly to the white settlers. From there we proceeded to Mankato, and on arriving there we found the town fortified and the people apparently quiet, but the leading citizens, those who knew best what the Indians were doing, assured us that danger was imminent. They said that, to allow the people generally to know the worst, would produce an instant stampede of all the inhabitants. This accounts for the fact that, often when we made inquiries as to the danger from the Indians, we received for reply, 'no danger, all quiet now; Indians driven off, etc.'

While we were in Mankato, news came in of the massacre of three persons, and a boy wounded in Nicollet county, a few miles from there. The leading citizens tried to smother this report and keep it from the masses, until they could thoroughly investigate the facts connected therewith. A committee was appointed for the purpose, of whom Judge Flandrau was a member, and report found true.

Second, We would say that Col. Flandrau has command of the force on the west side, and of him we obtained valuable information. It is his opinion that there is trouble brewing which will soon develop itself, and that Iowa as well as Minnesota, is in danger. He and Col. Sibley have troops enough to hold the Indians in check for the present, but how long he could not say. He advises the citizens of northern and western Iowa, to be in readiness, as there is certainly a concert of actions on the part of the various Indian tribes to massacre the white settlers and lay waste the whole northwestern frontier, and they will do it if not promptly checked. The treaties were of no avail, and he thinks our only permanent safety is to tally annihilating them, and thus completing a lasting peace.

Col. Flandrau started out a company of armed men on Tuesday morning under Capt. Wm. Bierbauer, to afford what protection he could to the settlers. They were to visit Madalia and probably extend the scout westward to the Des Moines river. The settlers complain because the government has taken away their effective men for the war, and don't protect them against the Indians If thus neglected the county will ere long lose its white population, because there is to much fealing of insecurity for them to remain there.

The number of persons known to have been massacred is 215. The number taken prisoners is 40. Col. Flandrau says that, from his knowledge of the facts he is satisfied the above number killed and prisoners is not exaggerated, and will prove much to small.

The forces at Fort Ridgely, New Ulm and South Bend, under Cols. Sibley and Flandrau, number 1,500.

The county of Blue Earth and nearly all that part of Minnesota through which we passed, showed signs of recent desertion. Houses were left tenantless, fields of wheat were unharvested, and everything had the appearance of hasty desertions. Some of the settlers had fled to the village or forts for safety, and others had removed out of the state, seeking an asylum with their relatives and friends in Iowa, Wisconsin and other States.

DAVID M. FERGUSON,
A. L. COLLINS.

Charles City, Sept. 8, 1862.

To better convey an idea of the conditions existing in this and other portions of the northern part of our State at this time, and the horrors of the massacre at this period north of us, I quote the following:

AFFECTING SCENES AND INCIDENTS

"Occasionally we see men with their families, traveling east or south, not wishing longer to hazard their lives and property on the extreme frontier. One man passed through here on Saturday last, said that on the Tuesday previous the Indians confiscated one of his horses and that like occurrences are to frequent to be pleasant. We learn that arrangements are fast being completed in Minnesota to drive the dastardly cowards far away from the white settlements. We hope that a lesson will be taught these red skins they will not soon forget. No compromise with rebels in arms, no treaty with Indians after they have murdered hundreds of innocent women and children, and dragged off many more to be tortured at their leisure. Ever since the massacre at Spirit Lake, Ia., in 1857, they have, at times, been quite troublesome getting bolder and bolder until the lives of hundreds have been sacrificed and more property destroyed than it would cost to exterminate the whole race. We hope they will be so completely reduced that they will never raise the war-hoop again; otherwise a great part of Iowa and Minnesota now settled, will become depopulated"—Bristol (Worth county) Independent, Oct. 8, 1862.

KOSSUTH COUNTY

"A friend who has recently visited Kossuth county, says that in one town with a population of nearly three thousand souls, only five able bodied men are left at home. The rest have gone south to fight the rebels or north to fight the red skins. And now horse thieves, taking advantage of the town, are carrying on a wholesale business. A sad condition of things exists in that section.,,—INTELLIGENCER, Oct. 16, 1862.

BATTLE AT NEW ULM.

"Hon. Charles E. Flandrau, who is one of the supreme judges of Minnesota, has made a detailed report to Governor Ramsey, of the battle at New Ulm on the 23rd inst., the time of the second attack on that place. Judge Flandrau resides at St. Peters and with a commission as captain, commanded a force of about 250 raw militia who went to the defense of New Ulm. We extract the following from his report, which we find in the Mankato Independent: 'At nearly 10 a. m. the body began to move toward us, first slowly and then with considerable rapidity. The men were encouraged to stand firm and meet the attack. The Indians were estimated at from 400 to 500. Their advance upon the open prairie in the bright sunlight was a fine spectacle, and to inexperienced soldiers, as we all were, it was intensely exciting. When within a mile and a half of us, the mass began to expand like a fan, an increase in the velocity of its approach until within about double rifle shot, when it had covered our entire front. The savages uttered a terrific yell, and came down on us like the wind. The yell unsettled our men a little, and just before the rifles began to crack, they fell back along the whole line, and committed the error of passing the center houses without taking possession of them, a mistake which the Indians took advantage of, by themselves occupying them in squads of two. three and up to ten. They poured into us a sharp and rapid fire as we fell back, and opened from the houses in every direction. Several of us rode up the hill, endeavoring to rally the men, and with good effect, as they gave three cheers and sallied out of various houses to which they had retreated, and checked the advance effectually. The fire then from both sides became general, sharp and rapid, and it got to be a regular Indian skirmish, in which every man did his own work after his own fashion. The wind was from the lower part of the town, and this fact directed the largest part of the enemy to that point where they promptly commenced firing the houses and advancing behind the smoke. The conflagration became general in the lower part of the town on both sides of the street, and the bullets flew thickly both from the bluff and on the street. We discovered a concentration of Indians at the side of the street toward the river, and at the rear of the buildings, and expected a rush upon the town from that position, the result of which I feared more than anything else, as the boys had proved unequal to it in the morning. We were not disappointed; in a few moments they came on ponies and on foot, furiously, about sixty in number, charging around a little grove of oaks. This was the critical point of the day, but four or five hours under fire had brought the boys up to the fighting temperature, and they stood firmly and advanced with a cheer, routed the rascals like sheep. They received us with a very hot fire, killing Houghton and an elderly gentleman whose name I did not know. As they fled in a crowd at a very short range, we gave them a volley that was very effectual, and settled the fortunes of the day in our favor, for they did not dare try it over. White men fought under a great disadvantage, the first time they engaged the Indians. There is something so fiendish in their yells, and terrifying in their appearance when in battle, that it takes a great amount of time to overcome the unpleasant sensations it inspires.

There is a snake-like stealth in all their movements that excites distrust and uncertainity, and which unsteadies the nerves at first. After their repulse the battle raged until dark without sufficient advantage on one side or the other to merit mention in detail, when the savages drew off, firing only an occasional shot from under close cover. That night we slept very little, every man being at the barricade all night, each third man being allowed to sleep at intervals. In the morning the attack was resumed, but not with much vigor, and subsided about noon. I held a conversation with the officers, and we determined to evacuate the town, which was done, carrying off all the inhabitants, women, children, sick and wounded, to the number of about two thousand. This movement was a very perilous one to undertake, with the force at our command, but the confined state of the town was rapidly producing disease among the women and children, who were huddled in cellars and close rooms, like sheep in a cattle car, and we were fast becoming short of provisions and ammunition. We also feared another attack by a larger force, and all the people decided that they would abandon the town the first opportunity. At about 9 o'clock a. m. we moved out of town with one hundred and fifty-three wagon loads of women and children, sick and wounded. It was a melancholy spectacle to behold 2,000 people, who a few days before, were prosperous and happy, now reduced to utter beggary, and starting upon a journey of 30 miles through a hostile country every inch of which we expected to be obliged to defend from attack, the issue of which would be either life or horrible butchery. Beggary, starvation and probable destruction were at one end of the road, a doubtful escape from this destruction was at the other end. We chose the latter alternative, and under Providence succeeded in getting through. Capt. Flandrau's loss in the battle at New Ulm was 10 killed and 50 wounded. The savages lost a much greater number. Many were seen to fall who were carried off by their companions, while ten or twelve dead bodies were found by Flandrau's men, among them the body of a renegade half-breed named George Provencalle. Among the white soldiers killed in this battle were G. W. O. Barth, editor of the New Ulm Pioneer, and Mr. Edwards, editor of the paper at Le Seur."

IN FLOYD COUNTY.

As the reports came in of the fearful massacres by the Sioux just north of us, steps were at once taken by the citizens of the county to organize a home guard to protect themselves against the Indians, should they extend their depredations to this point. A meeting was called at St. Charles, and citizens from various townships appointed to at once canvass their respective districts to secure volunteers and

ascertain the number and kind of guns and amount of ammunition which could be raised. On the 3rd of September, 1862, another meeting was called and the committee reported as follows: Pursuant to notice, the military companies or, home guards of the several townships of Floyd county met at the court house in Charles City, Wednesday, Sept. 3, 1862, for a permanent county organization. Meeting called to order, etc. On motion of J. G. Patterson, of St. Charles, voted that the several townships of the county report their respective military organization, number and kind of arms and amount of ammunition, etc., which was accordingly done.

Cedar Township.—Volunteers enrolled, 39; number of guns, 23.

Floyd Township.—Volunteers enrolled, 43; number of guns, 10 rifles and 25 shotguns.

Rockford Township.—Volunteers enrolled, 50; number of guns, 40.

St. Charles Township,—Volunteers enrolled, 103; number of guns, 40 rifles and 50 shotguns; 100 pounds of powder and 100 pounds of lead.

Union Township,—Volunteers enrolled, 55; number of guns 18, mostly rifles.

Rock Grove, Riverton and Ulster Townships not reported.

The whole number of enrolled volunteers in the six townships reported is 348; the whole number of guns 261. The volunteers were organized into a regiment, and officers elected.

Floyd County Home Guard Volunteers.

Charles City, Sept. 3, 1862.

General Order No. 1.

* * * "I also recommend that all officers call their troops together in their respective townships for drill and inspection of arms as often as once a week, or oftener; also that all persons enrolled prepare themselves with rifles or shot guns (double or single barrel) with ammunition, so that in case there shall be a raid upon our State or our assistance should be required by an adjoining State, we shall be prepared at a moments warning." * * *

Many other counties aside from Floyd, did, at this time, the same as the people of our county did in the way of making ready for an attack from the Indians, should reports prove true.

Floyd County Volunteers

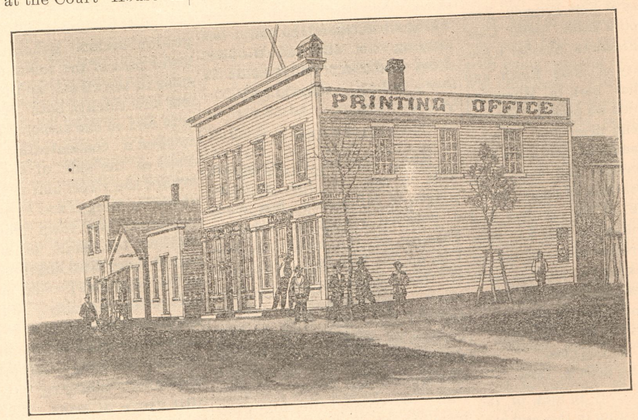
During the late war, Floyd county did great credit to herself in the patriotism manifested and the number of volunteers sent to the front. Excitement ran high, and meetings were frequently called to listen to patriotic speeches and enlist volunteers. An account of one of these meetings appear in the INTELLIGENCER, under date of August 19, 1862, which reads:

WAR MEETING.

"Pursuant to notice, a meeting was held at the Court House in this village, on Monday evening. Mr. Wm. B. Fairfield presided, and upon taking the chair he made a stirring speech, and was followed by J. W. Fairfield, of New York, and J. S. Patterson and Dr. J. W. Smith of this place. Mr. Sampson offered a pair of boots worth $5 or $5 in cash, to the first recruit, Mr. Montague offered $5 to the second recruit, Henry Pettit $5 to the third, Sanford Harwood $5 to the fourth, Dr. Smith $5 to the fifth, R. M. Waller $5 to the fifth and sixth, W. B. Fairfield $5 to the seventh, David Pettit $5 to the eighth, H. McNabb $5 to the ninth, Morris Makepeace $5 to the tenth. O. R. Blood offered a good cow to the first married man who would enlist. J. R. Lehmkuhl offered $5 each to the first ten men who enlisted during the evening. After two recruits had enlisted, Milo Gilbert offered $5 to each recruit of that evening. Abner Root offered $25 in county warrants with the right to select the recipient. R. W. Humphrey gave a cow, C. W. Atkinson gave $3, A. L. Collins $6, S. O. Page $1, Edward Reiniger (recruiting officer) $10, and a bounty of $2 per head for each recruit. Mr. Waller increased his subscription by various sums during the evening to $18 and Sanford Harwood increased his to $10. F. R. Wooley gave $5. Eight men enlisted during the evening; each received a bounty of $30. C. H. Eaton received Mr. Blood's cow. A. G. Grow took the cow offered by Mr. Humphrey. Following are the names of the recruits of Monday's meeting: C. H. Eaton, Jacob Allen, Temple E. Young, J. Shannon, P. H. Hettinger, Aldice G. Grow, Lafayette Smith and David Idler.

The meeting adjourned to this evening at the Court House.

Some of the boys in blue from this county would write home, giving account of their daily doings, the prospects at the front, etc. In a letter dated December 18, 1862, one of them writes: "The troops are in fine spirits, and as they march along, wear off the time by singing.



Home of the "Intelligencer" in 1856.

Mail For Floyd County.

During the latter fifties Rockford and other towns along the Shell Rock received their mail usually once or twice a week, it being brought by stage from Cedar Falls. An early effort was made from time to time by the people living on the east side of the county to secure a daily mail, but for a long time was unsuccessful.

The Charles City Intelligencer.

This journal is among the oldest and best periodicals of its kind in the state, and the leading newspaper of Floyd county This was the first paper printed in this county, the first issue appearing on July 31, 1856, at St Charles.

The Intelligencer was established and printed by Hon. A. B. F. Hildreth; he purchasing all his printing material new in New York City and shipped it to Charles City. On Mr. Hildreth's arrival in Charles City he found no building suitable for a printing office, so with the vim, energy and good sense, which was so characteristic with most of the pioneers, he went to work to build himself a place in which his paper was to be printed. He had brought in New York a chest of carpenters tools, and with these, and his own hands, with an assistant, he erected what has ever since been known as the Intelligencer building which stood on the corner of Main and Kelly streets, Charles City. After the completion of this building and the establishment of the Intelligencer in it, a photograph was taken of it, which is here shown.

Much of the lumber for this building Mr. Hildreth carried on his shoulders from the Kelly sawmill from the foot of Main street. The lower story was for a store, and the upper story for his printing office. The Intelligencer was a large folio sheet, containing seven columns to the page, and well edited and handsomely printed. So great was the demand for the first number (impression) that it was put up at auction and sold for $20. It is now owned and treasured by Mr. G. B. Eastman, of Charles City. So great was the demand for the first number of the Intelligencer, that three editions of the paper, of one thousand each, were required to be printed before the demand could be supplied

An eminent journalist—and now one of our honored state officials—not long ago said of it: "While it was strongly partisan —its editor being one of the advance guard of Republicanism in those early days before the war, when the opposition to slavery extension was crystalizing and culminating—it was a pure and elevating journal, which any parent might safely allow to come to his fireside. It was always on the side of religion, temperance, good morals, education and even the advocate of the homely old-fashioned virtues of industry and economy.

In the State Historical Department, at Des Moines, repose some of the first, and now invaluable, volumes of this publication.

In January, 1862, the name of the paper was changed to Hildreth's Charles City Intelligencer. From 1860, and during the succeeding nine years, the Intelligencer was appointed by the general government as one of the papers in Iowa in which to publish the laws of congress. It also had the printing of the State laws during that time. This paper has always been republican in principle.

On the 1st of October, 1870, after a period of 14 years laborious editorial services in Charles City, Mr. Hildreth sold the Intelligencer and his entire printing establishment to Messrs. Dyke & Rowell, and permanently retired from the field of journalism.

Not liking the west Rowell sold his interest in the paper to W. H. Leonard on February 16, 1871. In October of the next year, Mr. Leonard sold his interest to Mr. C. L. Dyke, and the firm name of the publishers became Dyke Bros. In the spring of 1874 the publishers were taken with the California fever, and on the first of May sold out to the Owen Brothers. February 25, 1875, H. L. Owens, who had become sole proprietor in the preceeding fall, sold to C. A. Slocum, who in turn, March 16, 1876, sold to Dyke Brothers, who had returned from California. In 1893, Mr. C. L. Dyke sold his interest in the paper to A. L. Olds, the firm name then changing to Dyke & Olds.

On Oct. 29, 1897, E. B. Dyke was called to his long home, and his son, H. N. Dyke, has taken his place in the editorial department.

In this connection a brief sketch of the life of Eugene B. Dyke, who was for so many years editor of the Intelligencer, may not be amiss.

Concerning his life we do not believe we can do better than to give the data found in the Memorial Record of Iowa men:

"The biographer is now permitted to touch upon the life history of one who has for a quarter of a century been identified with the interests of Charles City, Iowa, in the capacity of editor of the Intelligencer, the oldest and one of the most influential newspapers published in northern Iowa—Eugene B. Dyke.

EUGENE B. DYKE.

Mr. Dyke was born in Oswego county, New York, January 11, 1842, one of the four children of William H. and Mary (Ludington) Dyke, both members of long established families in America. Four of his grandsires, paternal and maternal, were participants in the Revolutionary war

Eugene B. Dyke removed with his parents to Wisconsin, was reared on his father's farm in Rock county, and received his education at Beloit College, where he received the degree of B. A. in 1865, and later on that of A. M. For about ten years he was engaged in teaching in Wisconsin and Indiana, his last position as teacher being as principal of the city schools of Rockville, Indiana. Then he took up the study of law and was admitted to the bar at the request of his father, but has never practiced the profession In the meantime, in 1864, he left college and enlisted in Co. C, Forty-seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry, in which he served about one year; was in Steel's division, Seventh Army Corps. Returning to college at the close of his army experience, he completed the studies of the senior year in one term and graduated. This overwork, however, nearly ruined his eyes.

In 1870, Mr. Dyke came to Charles City, the date of his arrival here being July 1, and soon after he purchased the Intelligencer, and as editor entered the newspaper field. In this enterprise he succeeded the Hon. A. B F. Hildreth, who founded the paper in 1856. In 1874-5 Mr. Dyke was in California, having sold the paper before leaving, and on his return repurchased it. Since that date it has received his undivided attention.

He was married December 19, 1872, to Miss Emily C. Gilbert, a native of Rockford, Ill., and a daughter of Milo Gilbert, one of the original owners of the townsite of Charles City. Mr. and Mrs Dyke have two children: Harry N. a member of the law class of 1896 in the Iowa State University; and Evelyn A., at home.

Mr. Dyke served four years as police justice, and under President Harrison's administration he was postmaster at Charles City, the duties of both offices having been discharged by him with the strictest fidelity. In fraternal circles he has long been prominent and active. He served twenty years as secretary of Almond Chapter, R. A. M., and was also a Knight Templar Mason. In the O. E. S. he has been honored with the office of Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Iowa. He was a member of the Iowa Chapter, Sons of the Revolution; was Past Commander of the Charles City Post No. 3, G. A. R., and was first Past Chancellor of the K. of P."

To the above we would add that Mr. Dyke was for 14 years secretary of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, O. E. S.

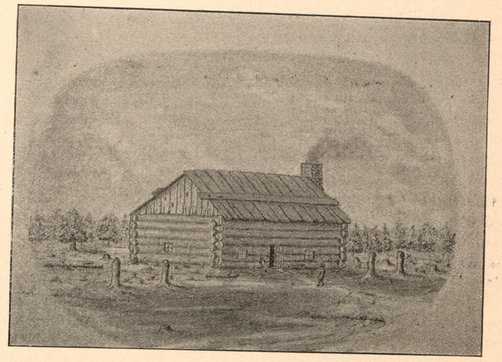
The funeral ceremonies were conducted by the Masonic lodge of this city, and other orders, of which he was a member, attended in a body.

After the short services at the house, the long procession that had assembled to render their last respects to the dead wended its way to the Congregational church. The funeral sermon was delivered by Rev. Dr. Gould of the Methodist church.

On December 1st, C. L. Dyke returned from Grand Junction, Colorado, and purchased the interest of A. L. Olds. The firm is now known as Dyke & Dyke.

The Old Block House, and Hildreth Hotel.

In the earliest days of the settlement of Charles City, an old log block house or hotel was erected by John Blunt This was erected a few blocks from



Old Log Tavern Built in Charles City in 1854. From Pen Picture by Hon. A. B. F. Hildreth.

where the Congregational church now stands, and was a large building, having a spacious loft, and was well ventilated. Here the travelers found "repose and rest." A correct drawing of this old hotel is here shown, and presents a striking contrast to the metropolitan Hildreth Hotel of today, which fine structure is also represented in another place.

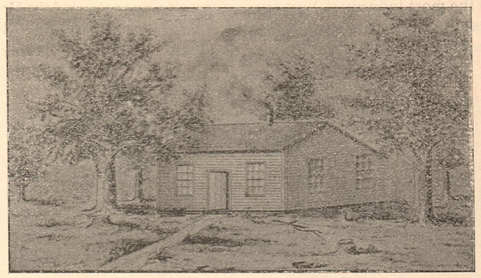
The Pioneer Country Store.

This was an institution peculiar to that early time, and all who were here in that early day will recall it, and often smile at the recollection of events which transpired there.

At Rockford, as well as in other settlements, we had the genuine article—good in its way and in keeping with the times. The store was kept in a small grout building, now owned and occupied as a dwelling by Christian Myers. This early time country store was something like Noah's Ark—contained a little of all sorts. Here was needles, buttons, skein thread and yarn, cod fish, tallow candles, licorice stick, pepper, salt, brown sugar and Kentucky jean, to be had for cash or dicker. Off in the corner yonder behind a breastwork of boxes and barrels, was the massive desk fastened to the wall, and in the book reposing thereon was kept the omenous accounts (trusted) of the settlers who was carried until the day of judgment in the fall. Here on the wooden counters beside the stove the loafers sat whittling and swinging their feet. On the counters edge were jack-knife sculptures, awkward H's like a pair of leaning bar posts with one bar, and B's like ox yokes. It was here that on rainy days and winter nights the whittlers, smokes, spitters and talkers gathered in, and lay their buckskin mittens beneath the stove to dry; and perhaps occasionally good old Dr. Mc——, with his saddle bags (which he used then) would drop in. Here Unions were saved and states constructed, stories told and tobacco gnawed.

Sometimes a country boy, tipped with red as to fingers, nose, ears and toes, comes in and stands before a short row of glass jars wherein lean a few streaked sticks of childish happiness at a penny apiece, and gazes with watering mouth that keeps him swallowing in blistful expectancy.

This house is now owned by Mrs. A. Morse It was originally built in the first block west of where John Howard's residence now stands In it were held the first court, political meeting, public school (next to the one in Rock Grove). Sunday School. funeral, etc.



First Frame House Built in Charles City, Built by Sanford Harwood in 1855.

Sanford Harwood.

Mr. Harwood was among the earliest of the pioneers of St Charles and resided in the town, or in its vicinity, from the time of his first coming here in the fall of 1854, until his death in 1896. He was for many years one of the foremost business men of Charles City, a man of high character and sterling worth. He was ever a generous public spirited man, and especially in the early days, more than one, poorer in this world's goods than himself, has had cause to rejoice because of his kind and generous spirit. In his death our city loses much, and his departure again witnesses to the fact that the old land marks of the early days are rapidly passing away.

Addis Schermerhorn.

The subject of this sketch was born in Chenango county, N. Y., March 5, 1843. He came to this portion of Iowa in 1855, traveling overland from Dubuque with an ox team. He in boyhood began the rough experience of pioneer life, and right well has he come out of the furnace. He is a graduate of the old log school house, but his education didn't end here. He is what is termed a self-made man. He has experienced life in a new country and knows well the value of opportunities. He is now a successful farmer, residing in Cedar township. He has held the positions of member of the Board of Supervisors, etc., and is at present one of the trustees of the State Agricultural College.

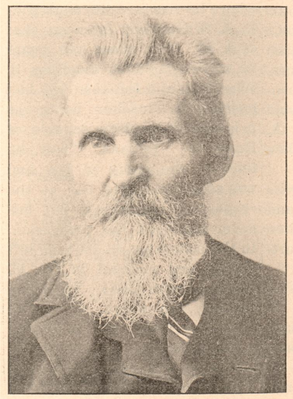
William B. Towner.

Mr. Towner, one of Cedar's leading and most prosperous farmers, may be called one of the early settlers, having come to this county in 1864 By his close attention to business, frugality and push, he has amassed a goodly share of this world's goods, and has a valuable improved farm of 203 acres. The results of his efforts demonstrates what may be done on an Iowa farm. For years he held the office of Secretary of the school board, and Justice of the Peace, and was also elected to fill four terms of office as county Supervisor. In 1897, Mr. Towner was elected State Representative from this district, and has so far acquitted himself well and to the satisfaction of his constituents.

He was born in Vermont like many of the early settlers of this portion of the State, and was married to Miss Harriet Darly, in 1856. Politically, he has been a republican. He is a member of the Wesleyan Methodist churc.

Joel W. Smith,

Dr. J. W. Smith is one of the oldest physicians in Floyd county, and one of the earliest settlers, coming here in 1857. Like



JOEL W. SMITH.

most of our successful men, Mr. Smith's earlier boyhood days were passed on the farm, and his birth place was a log house —and he wasn't ashamed to own it either. He says he was an average boy, but forgot to state that from this class comes the world's best men. His hardships and experiences on the tough, stony farm down East were not condusive to a desire to follow this profession as a means of livelihood. While yet a young man he taught several terms of school; afterwards graduated at Yale, studied medicine and adopted the medical profession as his life's work, in which he has been eminently successful.

In practice, he has always been conservative, yet progressive and independent. He is connected with different medical and scientific bodies. While his long life has been a busy and active one, he is still a student. In 1876 he was a member of the International Medical Congress, at Philadelphia, a deligate from the Iowa State Medical society.

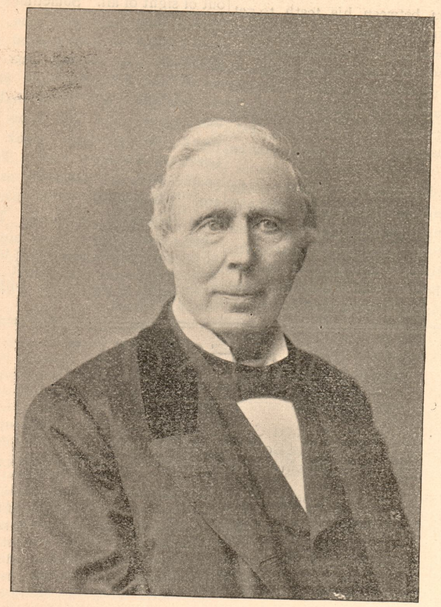
His valued contributions to the home press and other leading newspapers, have been numerous, and he has contributed valuable papers in his profession. He possessed extensive general knowledge, is a progressive and practical man, a close observer of men and things, an independent thinker, a good public worker when interested, and, though forgiving in his nature, abhors shams and frauds in individuals, in politics, in medicine, in religion and everywhere. He has uniformly opposed the use of tobacco and alcoholic drinks, and has worked vigorously for reforms in these lines. Politically he has been a republican, but places principal above party obligations. He is a liberal orthodox in religious belief, and thinks that every day christian living is more potent to ones salvation than any church creed alone can be.

LATER. Since writing the above, Mr. Smith has passed away. He died at his residence in Charles City, June 6, 1897, of paralysis; aged 72 years, 10 months and 13 days. We have known Mr. Smith for many years and always found him an earnest and honest Christian man—and such a one as the world cannot well afford to lose. And so has ended

a happy christian life— his journey has ended, his labors done, and like "one who wraps the draperies of his couch about him he lies down to rest," with the blessed assurance of a joyful resurrection.

Hon. A. B. F. Hildreth

Mr. Hildreth. one of the earliest settlers of Charles City, was born in Chelsea, Vt., February 29, 1816, and came of a long line



HON. A. B. F. HILDRETH.

of illustrious ancestors. James Hildreth, grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was of the old puritan stock, and of English origin. Mr. Hildreth was born and bred a farmer, but his love for literature was too strong to allow of his being bound to the farm, so in 1839 we find him located in Lowell, Mass., as printer and publisher of the "Daily Morning News," "Literary Souvenir," (weekly) and the "Ladies Literary Repository" (semi-monthly). Finally Mr. Hildreth sold out his interests at Lowell, and in 1843, began the publication of the "American Protector," and a monthly magazine known as the "Green Mountain Gem," at Bradford, Vermont. After a time the former publication was discontinued, and the "Vermont Family Gazette" was issued in its stead, which soon become popular throughout Vermont. Mr. Hildreth again sold out, and the next we hear of him in this line, is editor and publisher of the "Holyoke Mirror," at Holyoke, Mass., in 1853. In 1855 he again sold out, and in the spring of 1856 came to Charles City, Iowa, and established the "Republican Intelligencer," the first number being struck off July 31, 1856. We have elsewhere given an account of the difficulties he encountered as editor and publisher in this then frontier of the west, and the eminent success which ultimately crowned his efforts. On the first of October, 1870, after a period of fourteen years laborous editorial service in Charles City, Mr. Hildreth sold the Intelligencer and his entire printing establishment to Messrs Dyke & Rowell, and retired permanently from the field of journalism.

In 1858 Mr. Hildreth was elected a member of the State Board of Education, representing a district composed of the counties of Allamakee, Winneshiek, Howard Mitchell, Floyd, Chickasaw, Fayette, Clayton, Bremer and Butler. A few years later he was elected a member of the general assembly, and made a good record.

In 1861, immeditately after the breaking out of the war of the rebellion, he was appointed Draft Commissioner for Floyd county by Governor Kirkwood. In 1863 Mr. Hildreth was elected to represent the Fifty-fourth District of Iowa in the Tenth General Assembly.

He has been for many years a member of the School Board of Charles City, and stockholder—part of the time Vice-President —and director of one bank, and for years President of another bank here. Other prominent positions he has also held with credit and honor. The crowning home work of his life, however, was the erection in 1893—at a cost of $90,000—of the magnificent Hildreth Hotel and Opera House in Charles City, which is one of the finest structures of its kind in the State. This city has been placed under lasting obligations to him for this magnificent addition to our cities improvements. No other could be found who would put their shoulder to the wheel in like manner in the interest of our city. In another place is shown a cut of this handsome edifice, which will stand as a monument to the memory of its builder long after he shall have passed away.

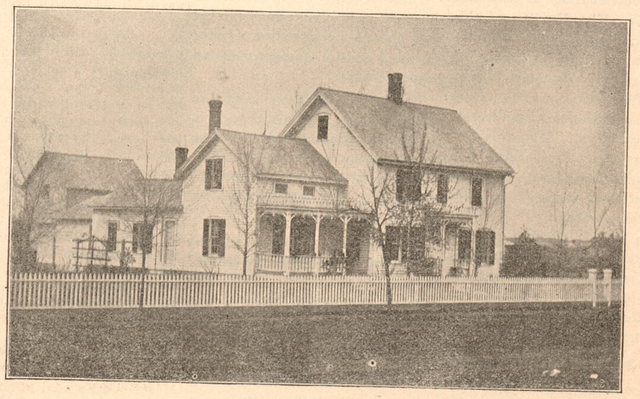
Charles City College.

The Charles City College was founded at Galena, Ill., Nov. 23, 1868, as the Northwestern German-English Normal School. On April 16, 1881, it was incorporated as a college under the laws of Illinois, and received full power to grant the usual collegiate degrees. Since then its courses have been changed and developed as the conditions of the school demanded, and its influence has been steadily widening.

The pressing need of better accomodations and the fact that a large share of its patronage came from Iowa, finally made a move to the west necessary. An offer from the citizens of Charles City and vicinity to pledge $30,000, a campus and a free use of the city water for ten years, was accepted, and a large beautiful building of modern style and finish erected on a pleasant elevation three-fourths of a mile from the heart of the city. An adjoining property was purchased and the large dwelling converted into a boarding hall, which is now being used for young men. The college building is one of the finest school buildings in Northern Iowa. The Boarding Hall contains all the equipment necessary to furnish table board and rooms, if need be, to twenty or more young men.

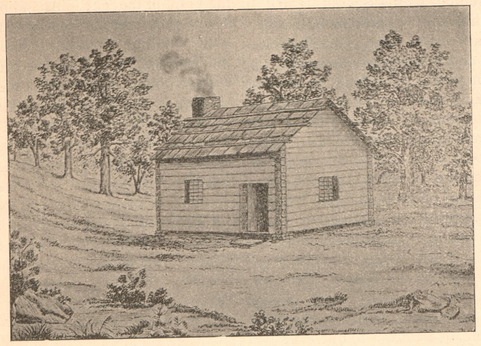
The courses of this school are as follows: Preparatory, College Preparatory, Scientific, Classical, Theological, Normal, Commercial, Typewriting and Stenography.

The Preparatory course is what its name implies. The College Preparatory course is intended as a preparation for the four years Scientific and Classical courses. The Scientific course leads to the degree of Bachelor of Science. The Classical course leads to the degree of Bachelor of Arts. The Normal course is designed to fit young men and women as teachers for all



Residence of Hon. A. B. F. Hildreth.

grades of public school work. It is fully equivalent to the course of regular normal school. The musical course offers fine facilities for all who desire to take it. Its course is: 1. Elements of music and chorus singing. 2. Harmony. 3. Solo Singing. 4 History of music. 5. For the piano: Selections from Mozart, Beethoven, Hayden, Clementi, Czerny, Mendelssahn, Heller and others. Piano method—Nebach's or Wagner's. Loudon's reed organ method. The Business department is of special importance to all who desire to fully equip themselves for the business of life and the acquirement of a knowledge of commercial work. It in short, offers ample facilities for acquiring a business education. A most excellent Shorthand and Typewriting course is also taught here. The course in actual business practice is one of



The First School House Built in Floyd County. Erected Near Nora Springs in 1853. This Drawing Was Made From a Careful Description Given By One of the Builders of This Structure—Edson Gaylord, of Nora Springs.

the crowning features of their work.

All in all, this is a school which especially recommends itself to all who desire to obtain a first-class education, and who value all that is good and elevating in tone and in morals. The Faculty of this institution is exceedingly fortunate in being able to number among its members, Hon. Samuel Phelps Leland, Ph. D., L. L. D.,—Prof. emeritus of Astronomy, and lecturer on Science. Mr. Leland is recognized as one of the leading and most popular lecturers of the day, and is author of several important and valuable works.

This school is steadily gaining in importance and influence, and is destined soon to take rank with the leading schools of its class in the state. Its corps of inrtructors is excellent.

Pioneer School and "Meeting" Houses.

But few at the present time realize from what conditions our splendid school system has sprung, or how primitive were our schools in this county thirty to forty years ago. Most of those early school houses were built of logs, the chinks filled with split sticks and mud morter. The fire places and chimneys were made of sticks, mud morter and stones, the same as those of the early log dwellings. The door was massive and the windows small and all the furniture of the rudest kind. The benches for the scholars were made of "puncheons" in which four wooden legs were inserted. The surface of these benches were not overly smooth, nor splinters an unknown quantity. These benches were usually placed along the sides of the room, the scholars all facing the center. The feet of many of the younger children could not reach the floor, and so they were excused for swinging them. The school books were of all kinds, all ages and conditions, and it was seldom the case that two alike could be found. The switch was then freely applied when necessary, and sometimes when it was not.

These schools were, indeed, of the most primitive kind, and yet from no modern institution of learning has a class of grander men and women come.

The first school house erected in Floyd County, was built of logs, in the timber about one-half mile from Nora Springs, in the fall of 1853. This was built by the settlers, all contributing their full share of work as all felt an interest in it.

The following winter the first school was taught by Sarah Grffith. It was a successful one. The scholars numbered twenty. and come from all portions of the township.

The "meeting houses" in those days were usually the school houses and the homes of the settlers. On Sunday the settler went to meeting and it was indeed so in a literal sense. The people came in for miles around. Some came with ox teams, some horseback and some on foot. In the earliest days the preachers were circuit riders or walkers; my recollection is they sometimes walked.

They mostly sang from those old brown leather covered hymn books. The deacon would strike his tuning fork against the window sill or snap it from between his teeth, to get the pitch, and then all would join in whole-souled. It was sometimes amusing to listen to the singing. None understood music—save that of nature as they learned it on the prairie—but they did their best, and usually opened their mouths wide.

Sunday come to the toiler on the clearing, and if they were going to meeting they must get ready, that meant a change of garments. Sometimes it only meant to grease their boots. Sometimes they had no change of garments, and then many of the men would come in their shirt sleeves; sometimes in a brimless hat, barefocted and their pants rolled up, and no one thought the less of them.

Going to meeting then meant a rest, a change of scene, the field and implements put out of sight. The assembling together meant much to the people in this new county. It was lonesome work all the week grubbing out a clearing alone, or breaking up the prairie out of sight of all. Sometimes the sermon might be a poor one, but at any rate there was a good text and there was singing, and the prayer was inclusive, and about the door there was hand shaking and conversation and news. It was a very profitable break between the weeks of work. Those people were not hardened as we are. The tragedies of life made a deep impression on them. They liked to hear of a better country, of the city builded according to the measures of a man. That time has passed; a new era is with us, but is it better?

CHARLES CITY.

The County Seat of Floyd County—The "City of Homes"—Early History, Growth and Development—Churches, Schools, Manufacturing and Business Interests—Future Outlook, Etc.

Elsewhere will be found brief sketches of the early history of Charles City, consequently only brief mention is here made of it.

Mr. Joseph Kelly was the first actual white settler within the present confines of Charles City, then known as "The Ford" of the Cedar river, and was the location of a Winnebago village. In 1854 Mr. Kelly erected a cabin on the spot now occupied by the Christian church. His family came in 1854. During the year 1853 about 25 families arrived, among whom was John Blunt, who built the first house on the east side of the river, raising it on the 10th of June. At this time also a log cabin was built on the east side and used as a store.

The original town plat of St. Charles was dedicated by Joseph Kelly and Melinda Kelly, his wife, in an article dated Sept. 22, 1854, which was acknowledged before B. Dunnwiddie, notary public, with a certificate attached signed by David Wiltse, prosecuting attorney, acting judge, stating that he was satisfied that the requirements of the code of Iowa had been fully complied with. This certificate was signed Jan. 18, 1855. Said plat was situated upon a portion of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter, and the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 1, and the north half of the northeast quarter of section 12, township 95 north, range 15 west of the fifth meridian. The streets are at an angle of north 32° east, so as to be at right angles with the streets parallel with the river. The original plat consisted of 18 square blocks, 264 feet square, and six half size blocks on the north side. Block No. 9 of the plat was dedicated as a public square, and is still so used.

Since that early day numerous additions have been made to the original town plat until today it covers a large area of land.

Charles City was incorporated as a city in the early part of 1869. The first meeting of the city council was held June 9, 1869, the members thereof and the other city officers having been elected on June 8th. St. Charles (the name afterward changed to Charles City) has steadily grown and developed from its first settlement to the present time, until today we have one of the prettiest and best cities of its size to be found anywhere in the state. Because of its many beautiful residences it is generally referred to as "The City of Homes on the Cedar." It is justly entitled to this beautiful appellation. Her people are wide awake and progressive; determined to at all times maintain the splendid reputation she has gained. Almost every line of business usually found in a city of her size may be found located here. She possesses fine business blocks, many of them splendid brick structures and others of stone. Much of the early custom of carrying a mixed stock of goods is done away with, and but little else than specialties in the various lines are found. We have many dry goods and grocery houses, hardware dealers, drug and book stores, news stands, clothing houses, music store, cigar and candy factories, bakeries, butcher shops, restaurants, millinery and dressmaking establishments, tailoring establishments, barber shops, implement depots, four lumber yards, blacksmith and wagon shops, repair shops of various kinds, jewelers, dentists, eleven or twelve practicing physicians, express offices, telegraph office, two telephone companies, two electric light plants, a splendid waterworks system, including a mammoth standpipe, flour and grist mills, seven fine and progressive newspapers—one a daily and one a school journal—as are to be found anywhere in Iowa, two abstracters, three banks, splendid markets of all kinds, first-class milk routes—no pump handles attached, two ice companies, cold storage establishment, extensive egg packing establishments, three photograph galleries, ten or twelve practicing law firms. Although our physicians and lawyers are quite numerous, yet there is comparatively little sickness or quarreling among the people of Charles City. possibly one reason for their numbers here being the general beauty and attractiveness of our city and its reputation for health and the pleasures and joys of life.

Charles City also has six or more hotels and boarding houses, the Hildreth hotel and opera house being one of the finest in the state. Livery and feed stables, veterinarians, splendid 'bus lines and accommodations, etc., also a large furniture factory, sash and door factory, pearl button factory, disc harrow factory, wagon factories, painters, contractors and builders, general and special artists, geologist, book bindery, real estate dealers, business men's association, a city connecil, by whom the best interests of the city are zealously guarded, a good foundry, cheese factory, creamery, plow factory, boot and shoe dealers, harness and saddlery, coal and wood dealers, florist, dray and delivery lines, second-hand goods dealers, laundry, several fine marble works, machinists, two extensive nurseries, variety stores, pop factory, etc.

The religious element of Charles City is strong and splendidly represented. Limit of space permits the mention of the various denominations only by name, which are: Congregational, English M. E., German M. E., Universalist, German Evangelical, Christian Science (has no church building) Christian, Catholic, Baptist, Evangelical Lutheran and United Evangelical.

The splendid schools and educational system of Charles City is elsewhere quite fully alluded to.

This county seat can boast of a splendid up-to-date brick court house, vastly superior to many. Her streets are broad, beautiful and well kept. A part of Main street is paved with brick, and the balance macadamized, which is also true of portions of some of the other streets. A fine iron bridge spans the Cedar river, and a beautiful park on Main street near the center of the city adds to the beauty and attractiveness of the city. Two railroads, the C. M. & St. P. and Illinois Central.

Many of our leading and progressive business people and citizens are more fully spoken of elsewhere. To give Charles City a just representation would in itself require a special edition of a work like this. It is but just to further state that no other city in Iowa or elsewhere is surrounded by a finer or richer agricultural region than is "the City of Homes on the Cedar." The farms are well improved and under a high state of cultivation, with fine dwellings, out-buildings, etc. Water is abundant and of the finest quality, and the climate unsurpassed. Charles City is located in the beautiful valley of the Cedar river and is one of the prettiest cities one could wish to see.

Located at Charles City is the extensive fair grounds, where our county fairs are annually held; and a few miles to the northwest is situated the fine county poor farm.

Charles City Public Schools.

No city of her size has a better high school and educational system than has Charles City, and great interest is taken in it by her citizens. Prof. G. S. Dick is, and has been for some years past, the able principal of these schools. On the east side are two large school buildings, one of brick and the other of stone; the latter being completed Jan. 1, 1867. It is 50x60 feet and three stories high. On the west side is the third high school building, built of stone, and would be an honor to any city. These buildings, large as they are, are yet far inadequate for the purpose demanded, consequently the erection of another and much larger building than any they have now, is contemplated. Aside from the above buildings, there are three commodious frame buildings in the city.

Country Schools of Floyd County.

In nearly, if not quite, every school district in the county, is a good school. Ever since the county was first settled there has been a growing demand for better educational facilities, and today Floyd county ranks well in this matter with any other county in Iowa. The school tax of the county is very large, but is willingly paid by the people to maintain the high educational standing and reputation they have established. One of the best evidences of the advances made along this line is the growing demand for libraries for the country schools, as well as for those of the cities.

C. M. & St. P. Railroad.

The first train to reach Charles City over this road was on Sept. 1, 1869. This road has steadily grown in importance and popularity, and is doing an increasingly large business. Much of its local popularity is due to their efficient, genial and accommodating agent at Charles City, D. E. Moore.

Societies of Charles City.

St. Charles Lodge, No. 141, A. F. & A. M.—First meeting under charter held Oct 21, 1858.

Almond Chapter, No. 53, R. A. M.—Preliminary meeting held Dec. 11, 1869. Dispensation granted Jan. 1, 1870. First convocation held Jan. 10, 1870.

Joppa Commandery, No. 55, K. T.—First meeting under dispensation held Nov. 10, 1890.

Excelsior Chapter, No. 51, O. E. S.—Charter granted by the general grand chapter May 10, 1878; first meeting held June 15, 1878.

Elks.—A lodge of Elks was organized in Charles City on March 11, 1898.

National Lodge, No. 165, I. O. O. F.—This lodge was organized on the 22nd day of Oct. 1868.

Black Thorn Camp, No. 220, M. W. A. This order was organized in Charles City in June, 1886.

Knights of Pythias, Excalibar, No. 109.—This lodge was instituted at Charles City, Oct 24, 1883.

Rathbone Sisters, Friendship Temple, was instituted at Charles City in Feb. 1897.

Knights of the Maccabees, Mispah Tent No. 1.—Date of Charter, Aug. 5. 1891.

Ladies of the Maccabees, Carrie M. Davis Hive, No. 17.—Charter granted Sept. 10, 1896.

Independent Order of Forresters, Charles City Court, No. 3160, was organized in Charles City, June 1, 1896.

Charles City Public Library.

This library was founded many years ago in Charles City. It is maintained and supported by the city, and is centrally located, on Kelly street. It has a large, fine selection of books, magazines and other general literature of the day, and is kept abreast of the times. It is well patronized and the people take a just pride and interest in it. The works on its shelves represent the highest class of fiction, history, travel, biography, science, valuable works of reference, etc. New additions are constantly being added to its shelves.

Hildreth Hotel and Opera House.

THE NATIONAL.

Charles City's Latest Store—Charles City's Greatest Store—Complete in All Departments—The Right Way to do Business.

This institution—the only one of its kind in Charles City—is the largest mercantile establishment in this section. It is located in the "Cheney" building, nearly opposite the postoffice, and occupies both floors of the building. On the lower floor are located the dry goods, notion, shoe and furnishing goods departments. In the dry goods department, everything usually found in a dry goods store is kept. A specialty is made of dress goods, black and colored in plain and fancy weaves, all the newest fabrics in these, as well as in wash goods. The notion stock is replete with the thousand and-one articles that come under that head. In the shoe department we find a complete line from the heaviest working shoe to the finest ladies' boot, in black or the different tan shades. Shoes for children, men or women. It was found necessary, to accommodate this large stock, to extend the shelving from the floor to the ceiling. The furnishing goods department is worthy of special notice. In this line the finest of every make is carried. Earl & Wilson collars, Wilson Bros. neckwear, etc., as well as cheeper grades. On the upper floor, which is reached by a handsome central stair, easy of ascent, is one of the finest clothing stocks in Iowa. This department is under the genial supervision of Mr. Geo. E. Birmingham, for eight years with the largest clothing houses in Wisconsin. Here also are found the men's and boys' hats and caps, a fitting companion to the swell clothing stock. A complete line of all the staple shapes and latest novelties are carried. Just back of the clothing department is a room devoted to mackintoshes, trunks, portiers and lace curtains, ladies' cloaks, capes, skirts, wrappers and shirt waists. The immense variety of curtains and portiers forbids description. In the trunk line it is possible to suit everyone. Of the line of capes, skirts and shirt waists, we can only say that they are the result of the best skill of the best manufacturers in the country.

The National is owned by Strauss Brothers, who operate other stores in Wisconsin. It is run on the same plan that has made their phenomenal success in other cities. Buying for five stores and for cash they can buy cheaper than any other business house in this section. They sell for cash only and so need figure no percentage to cover salary of a bookkeeper and losses from bad debts. They have only one price. A little boy can buy a suit of clothes as cheap alone as if accompanied by his parents. They believe in selling a large amount at a small percentage rather than selling fewer goods at a larger profit. This plan, added to the fact that they buy their goods cheaper than the vast majority of merchants, makes it possible for them to sell goods at astonishingly low prices. They expect and deserve to receive the patronage of people from the neighboring towns. For them The National offers special inducements, paying their railroad fare both ways to Charles City if they purchase $10 worth of goods. They do this to give their friends in near-by towns a chance to take advantage of their fine assortment and low prices.

The firm of Strauss Brothers is composed of Irvin F. and Edward M. Strauss, with P. Strauss, of Appleton, Wis., as special partner. The working "force" of the Charles City store is as follows: I. F. Strauss, manager; George E. Birmingham, assistant manager and head of the clothing department; Miss Mabel Gilbert, cashier and saleslady; Mr. Anton Arndt, salesman; Miss Ella Miller, head of the dry goods department; Miss Mary Towner and Miss Minnie Manning, salesladies. We predict that the National, in years to come, will be looked on as one of our most valued institutions.

Floyd County Advocate and Daily X-Rays.

In 1866 the Floyd County Advocate made its first entry on the journalistic world. It has always maintained a leading position among Iowa newspapers because of its advanced ideas and fearless expression of its views. For many years, B. F. Wright was its proprietor. December 6, 1897, a half interest in this journal and the Daily X-Rays was purchased by Byron R. Williams, the firm name now being Wright & Williams. Mr. Wright, the senior member of this firm, is one of Charles City's early pioneers and a gentleman well known throughout the state. He has been a leader in the prohibition army in Iowa, and to him is due, to a considerable extent the important prohibition laws of our state. Mr. Wright was postmaster at Charles City for thirteen years, and has always been prominent in the politics of Floyd county and the state. He was recently elected a member of School Board of Charles City. The Advocate is issued every Thursday, is a bright newsy paper, and its clear, sharp, ringing editorials are widely quoted, which amply proves their worth. The Daily X Rays, also published by the Advocate office, is the only daily paper published in the county, is a bright, newsy sheet and aims to give

the people of Charles City each day all the news of the city and much of the important news of the state and nation. It is filling a long felt want, and is heartily appreciated by the people. It is a large four paged six column paper, splendidly gotten up and ably edited, and has a wide circulation. May success continue to attend it.

Byron Williams, junior editor of the two journals here considered, is a Charles City boy, having been born here March 16, 1872. His education was received at our graded school and the Charles City College. He first began the newspaper work for the Advocate seven years ago; from here he went to the Citizen and later worked on the editorial staff of the Intellligencer, and on the Iowa Teacher of Charles City, then again was employed on the Advocate. At West Superior we next find him engaged in his chosen work. His first break-away from home was to Cedar Rapids, Ia. At one time he was sent to Davenport to write up the town, but as he says, he was at this time "plenty green," so didn't succeed in doing it. One acquainted with him and his work now would hardly credit this statement. Later he went to Davenport and here to meet with success as city editor of the Republic. He was afterwards city editor on important papers elsewhere, and finally occupied the position of city editor on the Republic, of Rockford, Ill. He returned to Charles City, Dec. 6, 1897. A better example of what push, energy and hard work will accomplish for a young man, is difficult to find.

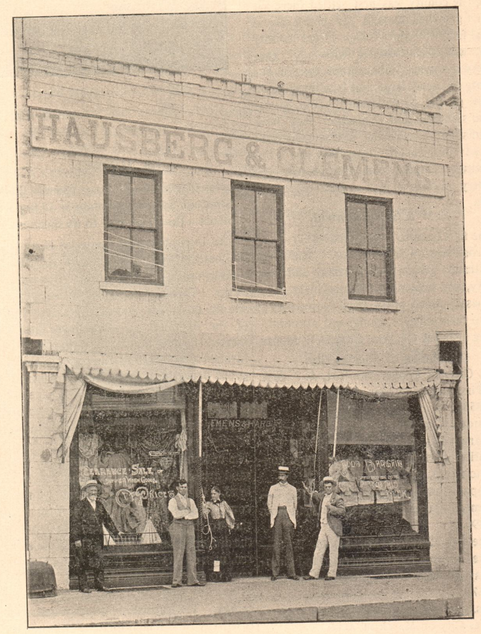
The Charles City Herald.

This journal was first started in Charles City by Rec Stanberry as a daily and afterwards sold to Harl Myers, who conducted it until March 1, 1896, when it was leased to Messrs. John Shreve and Ezra Troutner. Finally Mr. Shreve withdrew and Willis Haven took his place, the journal then being published by Troutner & Haven, who continued in the business until it was sold to Mr. L. H. Henry, the present publisher, Aug. 15, 1896. Under Mr. Myers, in the fall of 1895, the subscription list of the Herald was made a formidable one, and has been maintained ever since. This is a bright, crisp, newsy, eight paged journal, in all things fully abreast of the times—a paper which should be a welcome visitor in every household.

Mr. Henry was born in Shelby county, Indiana, March 12, 1858. Lived in Indianapolis during the war and moved with his parents in 1868 to Kansas, where in Minneapolis he learned the printers trade. From 1876 to 1883 Mr. Henry was engaged at his trade and at reportorial woak on Bloomington, Clinton, Lincoln and Illinois papers. In 1883 he engaged in newspaper work with his brother on the Coon Rapids (Iowa) Enterprise, In January, 1885, Mr. Henry sold out his interest in this journal to his brother and then purchased the Storm Lake Tribune, which he conducted until 1896, when he sold out and came to Charles City, where he is still engaged as editor and publisher of The Charles City Herald. In politics Mr. Henry has always been an active republican.

Clemens & Harding.

The dry goods trade of Charles City is very extensive, permeating not only the whole of Floyd county but the many towns in the tributary territory, and chief among the establishments of this kind is the well known house of Clemens & Harding. They carry a full and complete line of day goods, cloaks, carpets and rugs. The popularity of this house, long continued and sustained, is due to the just and upright dealings and good goods at prices lower than their competitors. This business was first established here—in the same building it now occupies—by Lemkuhl & Hausberg in 1868, and continued until the spring of 1876, when Mr. Hausberg purchased his partners interest and conducted the business until March 1, 1879, and then formed a partnership with W. E. Holbrook, which was continued for some time, when Mr. Holbrook sold out and embarked in the grocery business. Later this firm was conducted under the firm name of Hausberg & Clemens, and still later under the name of Clemens & Harding, who still conduct the business. The engraving which accompanies this memoir, presents a good view of this pioneer store.



Mercantile House of Clemens & Harding.

The Charles City Citizen.

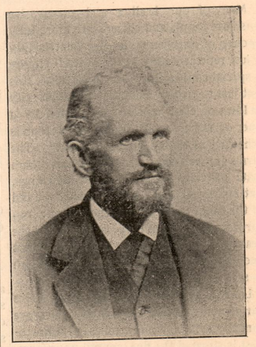
This journal was established in Charles City in 1879 and is now in its 19th volume. On the 12th of January, 1891, this paper was purchased by Samuel G. Sloane, who was editor and proprietor of the same up to July 1, 1897, when he sold a one-half interest in it to Mr. W. B. Penniman, the Citizen now being conducted under the firm name of Sloane & Penniman. This is a bright, newsy sheet, splendidly edited and gotten up, and is in all respects up with the times and a credit to Iowa journalism. It is an eight page, six column quarto. To Mrs. Sloane much credit is due as reporter on this paper. Mr. Sloane is a first-class newspaper man and a veteran in the work. He has decided convictions on questions of the day, and the courage to express them. The Citizen office is exceptionally neat and splendidly equipped—better work than is turned out at this office is hard to find. Mr. Penniman, associate editor and proprietor of the Citizen, is a man well qualified to help maintain the high standard this journal has attained. There was at one time a German paper conducted in the Citizen office, but is now conducted independently.

Familien Freund.

This is a German weekly newspaper, established in Charles City, February, 1896, by Mr. G. A. Grassmaun, of Waverly, Ia. In December, 1897, it was purchased by Messrs. Roehl & Reith. It is a seven column quarto, is bright and newsy and up to date. It reaches the best element of the German population in Floyd County, and has a steadily growing list of subscribers in both German and English. This paper does not takes no active part in politics, but aims to give all political news from an entirely neutral point of view. The Familien Freund eminently deserves the hearty support and patronage of that large class in whose interest it is conducted. Mr. Roehl, the editor and manager, was born in Germany in 1865, and came to America in 1882. He has been a resident of Iowa almost without interuption since 1885. He came to Floyd county in 1893, and has been engaged in newspaper work since 1895. He is a prominent member of the order of Foresters. This office does fine job work in both German and Enghsh.

John Heath.

Mr. Heath was born in the town of Willington, Conn., April 10, 1828, and worked on a farm until he was 20 years of age, when he abandoned it to learn the painters trade. While working at this trade at Bridgeport, Conn., he decided to ship on board a schooner for California, via the Straits of Magellan. He sailed from Bridgeport on December 1, 1849, and while passing through the above Straits, they stopped at a Chillian convict island called Point Ram or Laney Point, and while eating mush and milk with the Governor, they smuggled on board one of his prisoners and stowed him away in the "hold" of the schooner, and sailed away at daylight next morning. In passing Point Famine, a military station on the coast about 30 miles farther west, they were saluted with a field piece, and several shots were sent across their bows as an intimation to land the prisoner they had smuggled on board, but the captain realizing the only way to save his vessel and the liberty of his crew was to continue on at the greatest speed possible, kept on, and by a narrow chance they succeeded. After a long and tedious voyage they hove in sight of San Francisco and landed there July 5, 1850. From here Mr. Heath and a party of thirteen others started for the Uba mines, and worked on Long's Bar two or three months, after this he returned to San Francisco and shipped to Honolulu. About this time he was taken sick and remained for nine months in the marine hospital at Honolulu; then he shipped "before the mast" for Hong Kong, China, on the sail-ship Great Britain, of Boston. After staying in Hong Kong about a month, Mr. Heath shipped in a Columbian ship for Valparaiso, Chili, and stopped there about two months. From here he returned, by the way of Cape Horn, to Baltimore in the United States. In 1853 Mr. Heath was working at his trade in Racine, and in April of that year started again by the ocean route for California, going by the way of Panama, Central America. Here he worked at his trade for a while and then went to Sacramento, California, and opened a shop, worked a season, then went down to the "Bay" and shipped for the Sandwich Islands, and here worked at his trade for nearly six months. At the end of this time he shipped on a "log" in a Brigg for the Okhotsk Sea, off the coast of Russia, on a sealing voyage. After a very eventful voyage lasting eight months, he returned to the Sandwich Islands—Honolulu—and here remained for a time, then shipped again for home via Cape Horn. In the spring of 1855, we find him in Rockford, Illinois, where he remained in the shop of C. T. Sacott in East Rockford. In 1856 he came to Charles City and remained here until April, 1860, when he, in company with Joe Kelly and others, started again for California overland by team by way of Denver where they prospected for six weeks in the mountains, then organized a large train of 80 wagons for the Pacific coast. In this train was Mr. Heath, Joe Goddard, Joe Kelly and others from



JOHN HEATH.

Charles City, and several from Bradford, Iowa. They arrived in Placerville, California, on September 25th, sold their stock and started for the "Bay." Here Mr. Heath worked at his trade until spring, when he,

MARBLE ROCK, IOWA.

Its Beautiful Situation—Early Settlement—Some Facts Relating to Its Present Development—Biographical Sketches, Etc.

The historical era of Marble Rock dates back to 1850. The rolling prairies, the undulating hills and the clear stream of flowing water touched the sympathy and awakened the hopes of the pioneer hunters and trappers, who kept a little in advance of the westward moving civilization. Jacob Beeler, a native of Tennessee, was one of those conquered by the strength of nature's wiles, and in the spring of the year mentioned he reared his humble log cabin—a part of the foundation of which can still be seen—in the heavy timber on the bank of the Shell Rock. This was the first house in the vicinity, and for a long period this region was known as "Beelar Grove." The same spring Mr. Beelar did the first breaking of ground in the township. The nearest neighbors at this time were residing at what was termed "Coon's Grove," at the mouth of Flood Creek, and at a distance of twelve miles in a southeasterly direction. In 1852 Jacob Beelar entered the land upon which the present town is situated, and other pioneers began to appreciate the beauty of the location and settle here.

The hardships of these pioneers can better be appreciated when it is stated that the nearest grist-mill was located at Cedar Falls, a distance of forty miles. To visit it required a three days' journey over fearfully rugged roads. The postoffice visit was quite an important and difficult one to make, it being thirty miles remote at Waverly.

From these primitive beginnings has been evolved the Marble Rock of today, with her many fine residences, good streets, churches, high school and important business houses. Elsewhere will be found a census report of this village. Those familiar only with this village of today will find it difficult to associate it with the settlement of 1855, when it could boast of only one store, and that a double log shanty erected by Mr. Corey in the above year, and whose scanty stock was scarcely sufficient to supply the frugal wants of the few settlers in the region there.

Marble Rock contemplates soon to put in a fine electric light plant, and otherwise advance the material interests of the place. The lumber and shipping interests of this town is important as she is located on one of the leading railroad lines of the state. This town is surrounded by as rich and productive an agricultural region as is to be found anywhere, and the general prosperity of its people are attested to by the well kept and finely improved farms which one sees on every hand. Some of the leading citizens of Marble Rock are more especially alluded to here.

R. E. Winchell,

of Marble Rock, is the genial landlord of the Beeler House. He was born here about 1860, and has made this city his home ever since, and has grown up with the town. His parents conducted a hotel from 1857 to 1875, and from about the latter period Mr. Winchell dates his entrance into this line of business. By his earnest, energetic and honorable business methods he has built up a thriving business, and conducts a first-class house, with all modern conveniences, and with livery connected and buss to and from all trains. With a few such progressive and public spirited citizens a town is bound to thrive. Perhaps it is the trying experiences which our early settlers passed through that gives to them the sterling worth and value of character we find in them. But, whatever may be the cause, true it is that these men are the mainstay of the business world today, and the originators of progress among us.

The Weekly.

Marble Rock supports a newsy, wide-awake and reliable weekly paper of the above name. It was established in Marble Rock in 1875, the first number being issued August 12. The proprietor and editor was L. J. Keyes. Since then this journal has changed hands several times. Finally in July, 1878, Mr. H. B. Nies bought out Mr. Geo. H. Nichols, who then owned it, and so became sole proprietor and editor of this journal. From that date to the present Mr. Nies has held this relationship to The Weekly, save that some time since he took into partnership his son, F. K. Nies, now twenty-one years of age, and it is now conducted under the firm name of H. B. Nies & Son. The paper is a four-page weekly, finely gotten up and ably edited, and is a credit to Iowa journalism. It has a good showing of advertisements, most of them of business firms of Marble Rock, showing that the merchants of that village are sensible of the necessity for cordially supporting a home paper in order to build up an already flourishing place.

Henry B. Nies was born near Frankfort, on the Maine, Germany, February 1, 1854, and was one of a family of eight children. His parents emigrated to this country in 1864 and settled at Rockville, Conn. Here they resided for about four years, and then removed to Charles City, Iowa, where they resided for some years, and afterwards removed to Dallas, Texas. H. B. was the oldest of the family. He attended the public school in Germany, and on his removal to this country attended the public school at Rockville, Conn., and later was a student of the normal school at Galena, Ill. Mr. Nies has been connected with various newspapers in Iowa and Minnesota, either as editor and proprietor, or assistant, and is a man eminently equipped for the work.

On September 4, 1875, Mr. Nies was married to Miss Elizabeth O. Knapp, a daughter of Wm. B. Knapp, of Rockford, a most estimable lady and of rare worth—one whom the writer has intimately known for twenty-five years.

Mr. Nies has held the important office of clerk of Floyd county, and filled it with credit to himself and his constituents. At the present time he also holds an important state position at Des Moines.

Allen Moore,

of Marble Rock, is still another of Floyd county's early pioneers, and one whom the writer well remembers as far back in the distant years as memory serves him. Coming to this county in 1856 he has witnessed the great transformation which has taken place in this portion of Iowa since it came into the possession of the white man long years ago, and is now recognized as one of our leading and most substantial citizens, and one possessed of a well-earned and goodly share of this world's goods.

Of the early settlers we shall at another time and in another place have more to say. As the sunset approaches and the downward slope of life is traversed the "memories of the days that were" grows sweeter to the pioneer.

The Reason.

The lack of a general public spirit is a detriment to any place or people. The few, however progressive and public-spirited, cannot well do the work, which is the province of the many to perform. This is true of Marble Rock. We have been compelled to pass over this village in comparative silence, not because of such a desire on our part, or the lack of many advantages possessed by the place, but for the reason that most of her citizens lacked the public spirit to stand by her best interest.

This History is for sale at Marble Rock by Mrs. J. E. Asper.

DR. C. T. LAWRENCE

Marble Rock, Iowa.

Obscure Diseases of Female and Nervous Diseases a Specialty.

All of the New Treatments Practiced.

Massage, Compound Oxygen, Ozone, Compressed Air, and Electricity

For the successful treatment of Catarrh, Nose, Throat, Ear and Lung Diseases.

Many cases considered incurable cured without the use of medicines, in the old way.

Call and see him, or send for symptom bland and be cured at home.

..C. F. GREENWOOD..

Established 1878.

The Leading and Heaviest Dealer in Fresh Groceries, Dry Goods, etc. in Marble Rock. He also carries an up-to-date stock of Clothing, Gent's Furnishing Goods, Hats and Caps.

By strict attention to business, square dealing and low prices Mr. Greenwood has built up a business second to none on the west side of the county, and possesses an increasing and widening circle of customers and friends . . . . . .

ROBERT RAMSEY,

Manufacturer and Dealer in

Sash, Doors, Blinds, Screen Doors, Window Screens, Window Frames, Door Frames, Turned Work, Scroll Work,

In fact, everything you may desire in this line.

Round and Square **TANKS**

Large and Small, Wholesale and Retail.

Marble Rock, ... Iowa

Opposite the Park. Charles City, Ia.

in company with Joe Goddaad, went to the Idaho mines, then just discovered, worked here fourteen months, and not finding things satisfactory, again returned to San Francisco and soon shipped for home over his old route by way of Cape Horn, reaching there in March, 1862. Here he remained on the old homestead with his mother for nearly twenty years. During this long period he lost his mother, wife and two children, and now he says, "I again longed for the old town of Charles City, the town of pleasant memories, and in September, 1862, found me located there again." At the present time this old pioneer and voyager is still with us at Charles City.

J. S. Barnhart.

In October, 1855, Mr. Barnhart started for the land office, then located at Decorah, in northeastern Iowa. From Denleath he took passage upon an "up-the-river boat" for McGregor, landing there about one o'clock at night. Who can describe the McGregor of that day? There was a warehouse or grain elevator, a frame hotel of no great proportions, from which we were crowded out, with the information that 'Fathers house was a little further up the ravine,' so we took our first lesson in wading the mud of Iowa at McGregor. Fathers house was constructed of round logs, chinked and doubed, and was a story and a half high. The ceiling could be reached by a man of ordinary height. The building was old and dilapidated, and looked as if it might have been constructed when old Frenchman De Sota made his voyage up the Mississippi, nearly two hundred years ago. My companion and myself, in advance of some others from off the same boat, sought lodging in Fathers house, and received the only vacant bed. The various beds were crowded with large and muscular denizens from everywhere, and to a stranger in a strange land, the place was anything but inviting. This was our first night in Iowa. After an early breakfast in the morning, we started for West Union in one of the "Walker line" coaches, which we reached in the evening. Our destination was the Government Land Office at Decorah. At West Union we learned that the land office was then closed for an indefinite length of time. West Union was a place of no very extensive developments. There was government land in the county; and thousands of dollars were lying in private vaults ready for investment when the land office should again open for private entry. We made a tour of the public lands near here, and were wonderfully impressed with the sublimity of these great western prairies. Everywhere to the east, west, north and south we saw them dotted with what has been familiarly termed "prairie schooners." These emigrant wagons with their white covers contained the families of those who were seeking homes on the boundless prairies of the west. From my standpoint I take another view, only one human habitation was to be seen, and that a lonely sod house out in a wilderness of prairie. We selected lands and left money for the same in the hands of Rodgers & McClintic, of West Union, instructing them to locate for us when the land office should be opened. This land Mr. Barnhart finally failed to secure, but in February, 1856, did secure some land in Floyd county. Mr. Barnhart's experience in Iowa and elsewhere from this time on, is full of interest and historic value. In 1857, Mr. Barnhart came to Charles City and bought town lots, and has been a subscriber to the Intelligencer since its first publication. He removed permanently with his family to Charles City in 1877.

He was born near Bellefonte, Centre county, Pa., January 19, 1828. He has a fine education—much of it self-acquired. In his earlier years he engaged in the photographic business, making of it a splendid success; was later engaged in the mercantile business as assistant and bookkeeper; and was still later a successful teacher of shorthand. For some years he was editor and proprietor of the Democratic Watchman, of Bellefonte, Pa., and gained the reputation of being a man well fitted for the place, and an author of considerable note. Later he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1871. He is now an attorney, pension solicitor and Justice of the Peace.

The Baptist Church.

The first Baptist church and Society is one of the oldest church organizations in Charles City. Articles of incorporation of the church and society were adopted February 8, 1858. The first officers of the church were elected at this time and were as follows: Trustees, Sanford Harwood, Milo Gilbert and V. W. Baker; Secretary, G. H. Whitehead; Treasurer, Harvey Kellog. The society built a church when they first organized, completing it in January, 1858. In 1871, this was moved back and an addition built in front, and the whole entirely refitted. Since that time also, changes and additions have been made to this building, until at the present time this is one of the best church edifices in the city. Rev. H. H. Beach has been the pastor for the last four years. During these four years the grounds as well as the church building has been greatly improved, and very much of this through the personal expenditure of time, labor and money by Mr. Beach. The grounds have been beautifully parked and set out to flowers, ornamental shrubbery, etc., until it presents the prettiest appearance of any church grounds in the county. The church building itself has received equally as much attention—having modern inside decorations electric lights, furnace, etc.,—and this also mainly through the same agency as the grounds. But few churches are blessed with pastors of this class. This church is also fortunate in other respects, as Mrs. Beach is an exceptionally earnest and successful worker, often filling the pulpit most acceptably as well as having acquired on enviable reputation as a public speaker on various lines. On the church grounds if also located a good parsonage.

Hon. P. W. Burr.

Mr. Burr, of Charles City, was born in Mercer, Sumerset county, Maine, February 1, 1852. He attended school at Farmington, Maine, until fifteen years of age when he came with his parents to Davenport, Ia., and in 1872 graduated from Griswold College, and in 1873 from the Iowa State Law School. He read law in Lincoln, Neb., one year, then came to Nora Springs, Floyd county, where he practiced law with W. P. Gaylord, under the firm name of Gaylord & Burr, until January, 1877. In the fall of 1876 he was elected Clerk of Courts of Floyd county, and held that office until January, 1881, when he opened his law office in Charles City. In March, 1881, he was elected Mayor of Charles City, and in March, 1882, City Attorney. He was elected Judge of the twelfth judicial district, and occupied this responsible position until a few months ago, declining a renomination. As Judge, his decisions and rulings were marked with justice, fairness and honor—the highest attributes of a man—a fact which cannot always be credited to those who occupy this responsible position. At the present time Mr. Burr is engaged in the practice of law at Charles City, and is recognized as one of the leading lawyers, as well as one of the most prominent men, of northern Iowa.

A Valuable Collection of Ancient Books.

A collection of ancient books which cannot be duplicated elsewhere in America, and with difficulty even in Europe, is owned by Mr. Henry Bucher, of Charles City. These rare works were gathered generations ago by his distant ancestors in Switzerland, who were bibliomanias. An examination of this almost unique collection of ancient books strikes the beholder with wonder—wonder that such a collection of treasures should have remained so long unknown to the general public, and even that such a collection existed in this country.

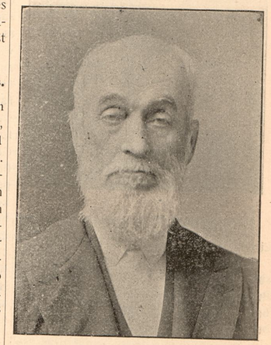
These works are printed in the Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Jewish and German languages. Many are very massive and bound in heavy wood covers overlaid with rawhide. Some are bound in parchment, and some also have massive metal clasps and corner rests. The paper on which these books are printed is much thicker and coarser than that used for this purpose today. What strikes one with the greatest wonder and surprise is the almost infinite amount of labor bestowed upon the hand-printing and illustration in colors by the ancient "monks" in the preparation of some of these curious works.

The date of printing of most of these works runs back several hundred years, and what makes them of far greater value is, they are—with the exception of the old bibles—all first editions.

They treat on a variety of subjects, as philosophy, natural history, religion, mithology, writings of some of the ancient and most famous men, as Cicero, Plato and others. To the scholar, access to a library like this would prove a priceless boon, and doubtless had the existence of these rare old works been known to the general public they would ere this been reposing in some of the great libraries of our country, or in that of our great educational institutions and thus benefit the present and future ages, instead of laying in obscurity as they do today, known to scarcely anyone.

John Howard.

John Howard was born May 31st, 1820, in Lawrence county, Indiana. His father emigrated from the state of Indiana to Illinois in the year 1834 and settled in Cane county, about thirty miles west from Chicago, on the Fox river, near the army trail made by Colonel Taylor in pursuit of the Indians under Black Hawk. He remained there until 1840, when he went to Waukegan, Ill., and there engaged in the manufacture of furniture. In 1848 Mr. Howard was married to Miss Harriet M. Gould. In the spring of 1854 they came to Charles City, Iowa. At that time there was eighty acres of land on the west side of the river laid out in town lots, called Freeman. There was one log house here and it was used as a dwelling, postoffice and store, and was run by Robert Freeman and Ed Haskell, of Bradford. Cal Goddard was their clerk. The families that were here at that time were Mr. Bigelow, John Blunt, John Kellogg and David Green. The single men were A. L. Collins and Seth Richardson. Their residences were on the east side of the river, but there had been no town lots laid out then. After coming here Mr. Howard resumed his trade and conducted it until the war broke out in 1860, when he went onto a farm two miles south of St. Charles, where he remained



JOHN HOWARD.

for four years and then returned to the village.

When Mr. Howard first came to St. Charles the Indians were still here, their principle village standing about where the stone schoolhouse of the west side is now located. The trying experiences of the early days and the terribly severe winter of 1856-7, when such a slaughter of deer and elk was made because of the crusted snows, Mr. Howard vividly recalls.

He, with the few other surviving pioneers, stand as old oaks among scions of younger growth and mark an age in our country's history that has now long since passed away. In that new country, over the border, to which they all soon must go, may they find the reward which is justly theirs.

E. I. ANGELL.....

THE Hardware Dealer.

Headquarters For

Builder's Hardware
House Furnishings.

GOOD GOODS -- LOW PRICES

Our Line of Heavy and Shelf Hardware is Complete. . . . .

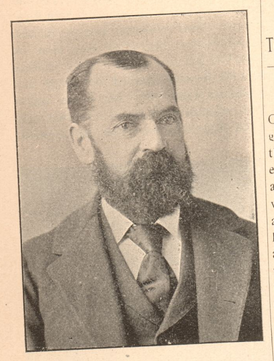
Always glad to Show our Goods

..E. I. ANGELL..

Opposite the Park. Charles City, Ia.

T M. Riddle.

In 1845 at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the subject of this sketch was born. In 1873 he came to Charles City and engagad in business on the street in various capacities, and has been here ever since. As o e of our successful and public-spirited business men, he has during the last quarter of a century helped to build up the best interests of our city and bring about the measure of prosperity we possess. Such men



T. M. RIDDLE.

give stability and enterprise to any city.

In 1886 Mr. Riddle entered into partnership in the grocery business with Frank Burnham, and in 1892 bought Mr. Burnham out and has himself continued in the business sver since. No other firm in our city has acquired a better reputation for honesty, square dealing and reliability than has this firm.

For many years Mr. Riddle has been a prominent member of the Congregational church, and is an active worker in both church and Sabbath school, and for some years past has been treasurer and trustee of the same.

E. M. WARN

Dealer in

PINE

Lumber, Lath,

Shingles, Flooring.

Mixed Paints, Oils, Building Paper, Lime, Cement, Etc.

Charles City, - - Iowa.

Charles City

GREEN HOUSE

Send for price list of Plants, Bulbs and Shrubs for the house and garden Cut Flowers a specialty

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J. Hawley McLeod

D. V. S.

Assistant State Veterinarian.

BREEDER OF

Scotch Collie Dogs.

Puppies For Sale.

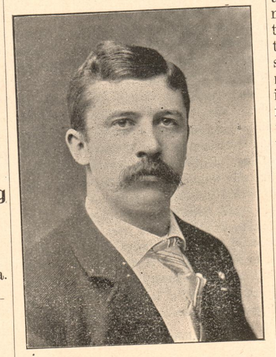
Offce at Greenlee Bros. Livery Barn.

Telephone 88. - - Charles City, Ia.

W. C. Herbrecht.

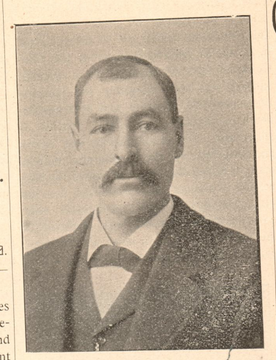
One of the leading merchants of Charles City, like most of our successful men began life at the foot of the ladder, and through honest, earnest and persistent effort, has attained to an enviable position as a business man. Mr. Herbrecht eame with his parents from Freeport, Ill, In 1871 and settled on a farm in southeast Ulster, Floyd county, and here remained, working as a farmer boy until 1880. After this he was engaged for one year as clerk in Rockford, Iowa. Leaving here he came to Charles City, where he clerked for Hecht Bros. four years. At the close of this period he, in partnership with John G. Legel, embarked in the drug and grocery business in Charles City, in which he remained for three years. This business was conducted under the firm name of Legel & Herbrecht. At the end of three years Mr. Herbrecht sold out and entered the grocery and crockery business, and in which he is engaged at the present time.

Mr. Herbrecht has a large and growing trade and is one of the leading firms in Charles City. There is scarcely nothing in the grocery line that can't be found on the shelves or counters of this establishment, and every article is of the best quality. Mr. Herbrecht handles green fruit in season and has a heavy trade in canned fruits. This large trade has been secured by a careful study of the people's wants, and earnest and continued efforts to promptly supply them at the very lowest prices. To his many friends and patrons he extends his grateful thanks and hopes



W. C. HERBRECHT.

to merit their patronage in the future. In addition to his large grocery trade Mr. Herbrecht is one of the most successful agents of the German Ins. Co. Freeport, Ill. one of the safest companies in the union. This was the first company to write cyclone insurance in the west. The losses paid by this company to January 1, 1898, was $11,587,784.67.



GEO. H. FAWCETT.

George H. Fawcett, the subject of our sketch, was born Oct 28, 1860, in Benton county, Iowa, where he resided until of age. In the meantime having attended Tilford Academy at Vinton, Iowa, and Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. In the spring of '81 moved with his wife to Ashton, Iowa, where he purchased a farm and bred thorough-bred stock for six years, taking scores of premiums and being the organizer of the Big Four Poultry and Pet Stock association now holding at Sioux City, Iowa. G. H. finally entered the mercantile business, buying one-half interest in a drug stock which he successfully conducted for two years, then sold ont, intending to locate in Oregon, but after looking the country over from Tacoma to San Francisco came home satisfied with Iowa. After a few years he located in Charles City—"the city of homes"—where he has built up an excellent trade in the music business, knowing that the sale of good goods, representing everything just as it is, and making no promises he could not fulfill, would bring and keep trade, he has strictly followed this rule. He has also demonstrated the correctness of his maxims and rule that "the making of each sale closed one satisfactory and just to all," was a trade winner and standing advertisement for him. Mr. Fawcett is justly regarded as one of the foremost of our business men.

Frederick Kuck.

Dealer in

Saddlery, Turf Goods AND Horse Clothing.

Manufacturer of.....

Harnesses.

Satisfaction Guaranteed. Charles City, Iowa.

COE COLLEGE,

Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

For Ladies and Gentlemen.

Full Classical, Philosophical and Scientific Courses.

Academic Department Well Equipped

...MUSICAL DEPARTMENT...

Expenses Very Moderate.

Fall term opens Wednesday, September 14, 1898.

Winter term opens Tuesday, January 3, 1899.

Spring term opens Tuesday, March 28, 1899.

For Catalogues and information, address,

REV. S. B. McCORMICK, D. D. President.

DR. W. J. RICE.

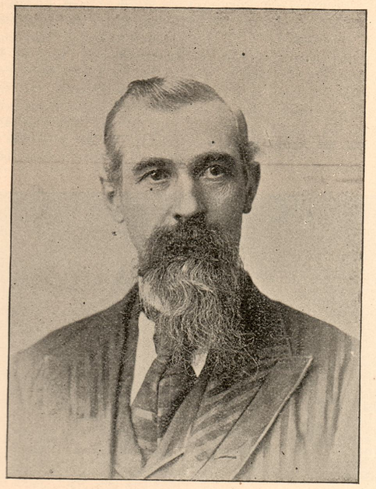
For the past eighteen years Dr. Rice has been a resident of this city, he coming here from Sandy Hill, Prairie county, Pa. The first eighteen years of his life was passed on the farm, and here he had the experiences which the farmer boys of those early days had—experiences that in many ways have proven of special value to him.

He has practiced dentistry for the last twenty-five years, and is recognized as second to none in his profession in Northern Iowa, and has a very extensive practice which he draws from many counties around, as well as from his home city.

His family consists of himself, Mrs. Rice and four grown up daughters.

M. H. Daley

Was born in Auburn, Cayuga county, N. Y., in 1845, came to Illinois when 5 years old, lived on a farm until twenty years of age, when he began selling farm machinery at Leland, Ill., which business he followed for 8 years—part of the time selling coal, hardware and groceries, or keeping a general store and carrying those lines of goods. He then moved to Waterman, Ill., and took up contracting and building, which business he followed for 3 years, then began manufacturing wagons and carriages, then barb wire, and finally began manufacturing farm machinery. He was the original inventor of the lever harrow, now being so extensively used everywhere, and which he patented in 1881. His business grew rapidly and he organized "The Daley Mf'g Co.," of DeKalb, Ill., with $40,000 capital, to manufacture farm machinery, of which company he was president and superintendent for five years. He then resigned his position and moved to Charles City in 1892, erected his present factory and has here built up an extensive business. But owing to the hard times which began in 1893—just as he got ready for business—he has carried on the enterprise in a conservative way, gradually increasing the business on a safe, sure plan. He has invented and taken out patents on several inventions, such as corn cultivators, hurrel cart, horse rake, barb wire and barb wire machine, lever harrow 3 patents, disc harrow 2 patents, besides numerous tools and special machines which he did not get patented. He has manufactured 36,000 harrows, 4,000 disc harrows, 10,000 barrel carts, 2,000 horse rakes, 5,000 hose reels, besides a great amount of other goods in the past ten years. He is a thorough mechanic and has mastered 5 trades. Is a successful salesman and a vigilent, energetic business man; fearless in following the right as he sees it. In religion and politics, liberal and progressive, always standing firm for morals and the public good. He is a great student of philosophy and holds to his theory that attraction was the cause of world formation from nebula; that the poles were first inhabitable and hence two races of men and animals. That the world is gradually cooling and driving all toward the equator. He has written on various subjects many articles, but few of which, however, have yet been published. He is experimenting on various inventions, but devotes ten hours each day to his regular business. We trust that in his efforts to furnish employment to labor, as well as benefit his trade, he may continue to meet with well merited success.



M. H. DALEY.

Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church.

The majority of the German Lutherans adhere to the doctrines handed down to them by their fathers, even in a foreign country. Only if the desire of church communion is very strong and cannot be gratified in any other way, they will join churches of other denominations. It was so at this place. A quarter of a century ago the number of Lutherans at Charles City was still small. Some had associated with the German M. E. church. The rest were either too poor to attempt the building of a church or felt not strong enough interest in church matters. Others again, finding no Lutheran church here, left in search of other places where they would find church and school of their faith.

Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Meantime immigration increased and great was the number of German families that settled in and about Charles City. In the spring of 1871 a meeting was held, a congregation permanently organized and church trustees elected. A call was extended to Rev. Mr. Adceser, of Plainfield, who preached here every alternate Sunday. The meetings were held half a mile south of town at a small school house which has since been moved to the west side school grounds. When this proved too small the east side school house was used for the place of worship. When in October, 1871 Mr. Adceser accepted a call from a congregation in Indiana, the congregation applied to the president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Iowa to provide them with a minister. He sent Rev. Christian Wilke who made a very favorable impression in his trial sermon and the congregation succeeded in securing him as their pastor. Since February, 1872 services were held regularly according to the Lutheran ritual. The congregation soon became tired of wandering from one school house to the other and began thinking of erecting a house of worship of their own. At a business meeting of the congregation June 15, 1872, some energetic members succeeded in carrying a resolution to build a church. The church was then recorded in the court and three lots on the west side hill were purchased. On September 1, 1872, the corner stone was laid, and in February, 1873 the frame work was finished and the first service was held in the new building, which was dedicated September 21, 1872. In January, 1875 Rev. C. Wilke removed to Madison, Wis. His successor, Rev. H. Vogel, remained only until April, 1876. Rev. F. Mutschman, the next pastor, served the congregation from June, 1876, to April, 1879. He was followed by Rev. E. H. Caselman, who arrived here in June, 1879 and is the present incumbent of the pastorate. Feb. 19, 1882, the congregation celebrated the 10th anniversary of its organization. The church debts were paid and an Estey Chapel organ purchased. In the summer of '84 the pastor took a six months vacation to visit in the father-land. Edwin Berg, one of the founders and most prominent members, died November 22, 1884. The school house was built in November, 1884, after another lot had been bought by the congregation. Two more were purchased July, 1886 and the corner lot July, 1891, the congregation now owning seven lots. The present church building was put up in 1893 at a cost of $4,000. The pipe organ was purchased in February, 1898. The congregation is free from debt. The congregation has a Young People's society organized January 12, 1890 whose president is Miss Anna Fenske, and a Ladies Aid society, organized February 7, 1892 presided over by Mrs. John G. Legel. The officers of the congregation are: Carl Thom, secretary; John G. Legel, cashier; Carl Thom, Andreas Miller, G. Wulff, David Soth, deacons; John G. Legel, Albert Hoeft, Ed. Mewes, Wm. Birkholz, trustees; organist, Miss Walburga Pertzborn; Janitar, Fred Thurow.

Emil H. Caselman was born in Phenish Palatinate, Germany, received his education at the Gymnasium in Ansbach and at the Universities of Leipsic and Eslasgen. He is president of the Melanchthon Pastoral Conference, Secretary of the Northern district and General Secretary of the Lutheran Synod of Iowa. This summer he is making a tour around the world, stopping at the following stations: San Francisco, Honolulu, Hawaii; Apia, Somoa; Aukland, New Zealand; Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, Australia; Colombo, Ceylon, Mission fields in India, Canal of Suez, Cairo and the Pyramids, Jerusalem and the Holy Lands, Italy and Germany.

Henry F. Miles.

Mr. Miles was born in Franklin, Delaware county, N. Y., November 28, 1841. He spent his early boyhood days on the farm, working summers and attending school winters. In the summer of 1862 he enlisted in the 144th regiment of N. Y. Volunteers, in November, 1864 was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant and commanded the company until the close of the war. He participated in the siege and recapture of Fort Sumpter, and also engaged in other military operations along the Atlantic

HENRY F. MILES.

coast. As an officer and a soldier he gained an enviable record. In November, 1868, Mr. Miles came to Charles City where he has resided ever since. During this long period, he has been engaged in the drug, book and stationery business. In November, 1864, he was married to Mary A. Hanford, of Deposit, N. Y. In politics Mr. Miles is a strong republican. He has been an honored member of the school board for twelve years, and is recognized as one of the leading and most reliable citizens of Charles City.

Miles & Son.

In November, 1868, W. F. and H. F. Miles bought a one-half interest in the drug and book business of Smith & Atkinson, the firm name becoming Atkinson & Co. In August, 1869, Mr. Atkinson died, and soon after the firm became Miles Bros.; and so remained until Nov. 1897, when W. F. Miles retired from the firm and Clarence W. Miles succeeded, the new firm becoming H. F. Miles & Son.

The new firm carry a very large stock of drugs and medicines and is constantly adding to it, making it complete and up to date in every respect. The Prescription Department is in charge of Clarence Miles, which is a sufficient guarantee of accuracy

and correctness in all pharmaceutical work. He is a graduate from the Pharmacy department of the State University of Iowa, and has already established a reputation as a skillful pharmacist.

In books few cities in Iowa can boast so large and well selected a stock, and additions of new and desirable works are constantly being made.

They also carry a large line of school books, blank books, writing papers, tablets, bibles, albums and fine leather goods. They also carry a full line of wall paper, paints, oils, alabastine, etc

This house is regarded as one of the

Interior View of the Drug and Book Store of Miles & Son.

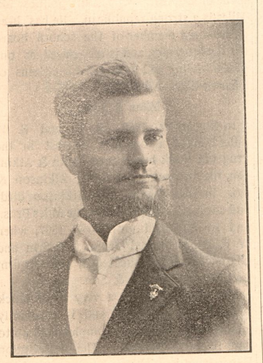
pioneer establishments of Charles City, and one of the most reliable firms in the county. The engraving accompaning this sketch shows an interior view of this well known house.

W. B. Klinetop, M. D.

We now have under consideration one of the younger though leading members of the medical profession in Charles City, one who was born and raised on a farm near this city. The 23d of January last was his 38th birthday. He is a good example of what pluck, perseverance and good judgment can accomplish.

He took a three years course in the Charles City high school and afterwards began the study of medicine marticulating at the Hering Medical college, Chicago, Oct. 4, 1892, from which he graduated with high honors April 10, 1895.

Wishing to more fully perfect himself in his chosen profession, he, during the summer of 1894, took special hospital work and also special courses in diseases of eye and ear and in diseases of children, supplementing this later with a special course in the diseases of women.



W. B. KLINETOP, M. D.

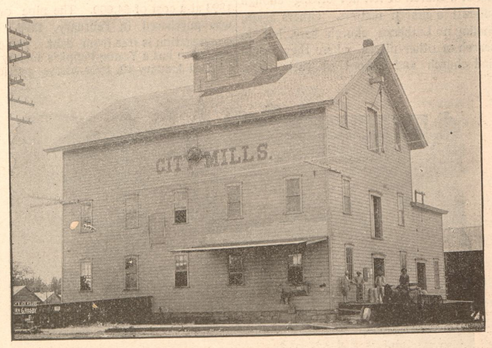
In the spring of 1895 Dr. Klinetop attended a Post Graduate course at his Alma Mater, giving considerable attention to surgery. Thus it will be seen that few in this profession are so well equipped as he to meet the great responsibilities attending the work of a physician.

Dr. Klinetop first located at Hampton, Iowa, where he practiced nearly two years meeting with fine success. But his old home had an attraction for him and in Dec. 1896, he moved to Charles City where he is now located. In Sept. 1897 he was appointed county physician for district No. 1. He is also medical examiner for the "Knights of the Maccabees," "Ladies of the Maccabees," and for the "Court of Honor."

But few young men of his age have shown the proficiency and deep insight into the profound problems of his profession which he possesses, and we predict for him the greatest measure of success in his chosen field.

Charles City Water Power Company and Flouring Mills.

In a fine four story frame building on the Cedar river at Charles City will be found one of the most extensive flouring mills in northeastern Iowa, owned and operated by the Charles City Water Power Company, of which Mr. John Kuck is the manager.



Charles City Water Power Company's Flouring Mills.

This mill was organized in 1875 and put in operation in 1876; has a daily capacity of 125 barrels, employ five men and has a storage capacity of 20,000 bushels of wheat. "Dakota Hard Fife" wheat is here used, and the product of this will have no superior anywhere. In addition to the superior grade of flour made here, the company also does an extensive business in ground feed.

The brands of flour manufactured are "Best Fancy Patent, Minnesota Patent and Straight," which are equal to any other brands of flour manufactured in the country. Custom work and feed grinding is made a specialty. The machinery of this mill consists of a full run of roller systems, thus enabling them to make the very best of flour. This machinery is propelled by three turbine waterwheels. A portion of this power is now attached to the city waterworks, Electric Light company's plant, M. H. Daley's disk harrow factory and Hof Bros.' plow factory.

The dam is substantial and neat, permitting a beautiful sheet of water to flow over its crest and slide down an apron at an angle of forty-five degrees, thus affording a pleasant and attractive scene to all passers-by upon the bridge a few rods below.

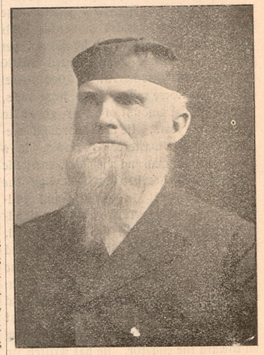
Residence of P. H. Kelly.

P. H. Kelly.

Mr. P. H. Kelly was born in Fon du Lac, Wisconsin, March 17, 1854, and came to Floyd county, July 1876, and lived on a farm about seven miles south of Charles City. Here he resided several years, and then in 1882 moved to Charles City to reside and has been a resident and prominent citizen here ever since. During most of the time Mr. Kelly has been engaged in the poultry and egg packing business, and has conducted a thriving business. He has now opened a branch house for the conducting of the same business, at New Hampton. In the summer of 1897, Mr. Kelly erected a splendid residence on east Clark st. and in one of the most pleasant locations in the city. The interior of his residence is finely finished in oak and in arrangment and structure is modern throughout, thus he is abl to boast of one of the finest homes in Charles City. In politics Mr. Kelly is an earnest democrat; he is also a prominent member of the Catholic church. Accompaning this sketch is an engraving of Mr. Kelly's fine residence.

Rev N. S. Sage.

N. S. Sage is a descendant of that sturdy stock of New England pioneers to whom our country owes so much. His parents and grandparents were reared in Connecticut; whence they came to Ohio, and were among the first who made for themselves homes in what was then known as the Western Reserve. Here, in the town of Huntington, Lorain county, the subject of this sketch was born, May 7, 1838. His rudimental education was received principally from his father who was a classical scholar. In 1851, he entered the Liberal institute at Mariet a, Ohio, and completed collegiate course in 1857, at the age of 19. Two years previous to this, he was ordained to the Gospel ministry by the Murray association of northeastern Ohio. He has held prominent pastorates in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, and at the present time is pastor of All Soul's church (Universalist) in Charles City, Iowa. In 1887, Mr. Sage became a member of the American Anthropological society. We quote from the Journal of Anthropology: "In the pursuit of that which throws light on the origin and development of man, Dr. Sage is an enthusiast. His contributions concerning ethics, sociology and prehistoric archaeology are of especial value." In 1879, he was made vice-president of the branch society of Anthropology at St. Louis and elected Foreign Representative of of the same. At the convocation, held in London, England, during that year, Mr. Sage took an active part against the positions assumed by Drs Huxley and Darwin in the discussion of the Environment Theory, and contributed a paper on "The Influence of the Physical World in the formation of Mind and Character," which captivated the learned members. He was unanimously recommended by them as a suitable candidate for the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws which, on his return to St. Louis, was conferred upon him. Dr. Sage is an Anthropologist of the progressive school. He is an evolutionist, and his contributions have done much to prove that evolution as a process, is consistent with a true christian Theism. His position can best be defined in his own words in reply to Dr. Huxley: "Should future ages raise the last Atlantis or the sunken Lemuria and thereby find the Darwinian 'missing link,' Creative Intelligence can alone give to it the breath of life that it may serve as a link in the endless chain of being."



REV. N. S. SAGE.

William E. Holbrook.

One of the centers of the grocery trade in Charles City is beyond doubt at the establishment of Mr. W. E. Holbrook.

This is one of the largest wholesale and retail grocery and queensware houses in this section of the state. He occupies a store on Main street 22x80 in dimensions and every portion of the building is used to display the fine stock kept on hand. In addition he has a large warehouse on Kelly street 20x40 in size. He is an extensive wholesale and retail dealer in groceries, flour, salt, oilcake, kerosene, gasoline, green fruits in their season, canned goods, hay, grains, etc. He enjoys a large and increasing jobbing trade and commands the admiration of the people of Charles City and surrounding territory.

Mr. Holbrook was born in Masonville, Canada East, Dec. 11, 1842, and in the spring of 1852 he with his parents moved to Freeport, Ill., and remained there until 1855, when they moved to Floyd, Floyd county, Iowa, and settled on a farm of 400 acres. The eldest son had entered this land in 1854. Part of Mr. Holbrook's early years, until he was nineteen, was passed on this farm and in attending school. After this he taught school for a time.

Mr. Holbrook began his mercantile business in Floyd in 1864, and in 1868 removed to Charles City. From 1864 until 1887, Mr. Holbrook was associated with W. Hausberg, when a change was made to his present location in June 1887. Mr. Holbrook has been in business continuously for thirty-three years. His only son, Eugene W., is in his employ and has a general superintendency of the business. This firm employ three clerks at the present time. Mr. Holbrook's family consists of one son and a daughter, the latter being recently married, and resides in Charles City, Iowa.

The cut accompaning this sketch presents a good view of the front of the building occupied by this firm.

Wholesale and Retail Grocery House of W. E. Holbrook.

A Quarter of a Century.

Twenty-five years ago Mr. Edward Berg, in partnership with Wm. Brinkbock, opened a small unpretentious drug and grocery business in the old frame building owned by Morris Cole. From its inception until the present time its history has been one of steady growth and advancement, keeping up with modern ways and new ideas until now it is housed in its own large building built expressly for this business. After conducting the business for several years Mr. Brinkbock, owing to ill health, was forced to retire, the business being conducted by Mr. Berg, with John G. Legel as assistant. After the death of Mr. E. Berg, which occurred Nov. 22, 1894, the business was sold to John G. Legel, his former clerk and W. C. Herbrecht two young men, who formed a partnership under the firm name of Legel & Herbrecht, continuing until the fall of 1887, when they separated, Mr. Herbrecht entered into the grocery business, and John G. Legel continuing the old business. After moving into larger quarters, which in time also proved inadequate, he in 1892 erected the building shown in the above cut. Through the different mutations and improvements the present owner, John G. Legel, has been the moving spirit, and it was through his persevrance and energy that the business has been brought to its present magnitude, until now it is classed among the largest and best equipped retail drug establishments in Northern Iowa, occupying the basement, first and second floors of a 22x100 foot building. Mr. Legel was born in St. Louis, Mo., May 26, 1859, has been raised on Iowa soil, is a graduate of the Dubuque public schools and while still a young man, has won his way by his own efforts and industry, and we predict for him a bright future.

Drug and Grocery House of John G. Legel.

The War With Spain.

During the time here considered in the history of Floyd County, her citizens have time and time been called upon to show their patriotism and loyalty to their government, and right well have they responded. During the long civil war, none of the boys acquitted themselves with greater credit than did those who went to the front from Floyd County.

Today the second war is on—a war between the United States and Spain—and for the second time our citizens have been called upon in the defence of their country. Company D, and a company of volunteers from various parts of the county, have already gone forth at their country's call, and many anxious to enlist, cannot yet be received. Never, "during the days of 62," was there greater patriotism, or greater loyalty to the flag, shown, than by the citizens of our country today, Long wave "old glory."

Turner Bros.

Among the recent additions to the manufacturing circle of Charles City, and one which bids fair to become an important factor in the future development of the city, is the pearl button factory of Turner Bros. For nearly a year and a half these gentlemen have been investigating this business and inventing new and greatly improved machinery for the manufacture of pearl buttons from clam shells of the Cedar river. They have now invented several extremely valuable machines for this work and have them in operation at their factory. These machines—for which they make their own patterns—will perform from fifty to seventy-five per cent more work and do the work better than any other machines manufactured for the purpose.

This factory is not yet run to its full capacity, but as rapidly as new machinery can be gotten out, it will be increased to a twelve-saw plant and employ a considerable force of hands.

The finished product already turned out, demonstrates this to be a most important industry and our river shells capable of producing a product of number one quality. The proprietors propose incorporating with the manufacture of pearl buttons, a pearl novelty department, and will also engage in the manufacture of pearl button machinery.

These brothers have worked their way up

from a humble position on the farm near Rockford, and are good examples of what energy, push, and talent can accomplish Mr. Jay Turner, the junior member of the firm—he has not yet reached his majority—has shown a marked talent for mechanics, and was for some time employed on the electric light plant of Rockford The senior member, Mr. F. D. Turner, has for

TURNER BROTHERS.

some years been a resident of Charles City and had acquired an enviable reputation as an architect, contractor and builder. Of such talent Charles City is justly proud. Since writing the above, this enterprise has been transformed into a stock company, and is doing an increasingly large amount of first-class work, and employs 22 hands at the present time, and will soon employ more.

M. H. Vosburgh.

At the corner of Main and Clark streets in Charles City, over Fussell & Smith's hardware store, will be found one of the finest photograph galleries in this part of the state. This present gallery has been established six years, and Mr. Vosburgh's reputation as an artist extends over a vast territory and his trade is extremely large, and comes from all parts of Floyd, Chickasaw and Mitchell counties. Every grade and kind of photograph is taken here, and from single figures to the largest groups. Every modern convenience is used. Interior and exterior viewing is given special attention. Crayon, watercolor and other enlarging done. Mr. Vosburgh also carries a fine line of cameras and outfits, second to none. Those desiring fine work or wish the best line of cameras and outfits should call on him. The cut which accompanies this sketch shows the interior of Mr. Vosburgh's splendid operating room.

Mr. Vosburgh was born in Columbus, Wisconsin, July 10, 1861, and spent all his earlier life there prior to coming to Charles City, save two years which was passed at Beaverdam, Wisconsin. He has been in the photograph business about fifteen years, eight years of which has been passed in Charles City.

FRED E. SCHROEDER JOHN J. WARD

CHARLES CITY ....BOOK BINDERY....

++++++

General Repairers and Binders of all kinds of Blank Books, Canvas Covers, Magazines, Music Books, Map Mountings, Charts, Society Badges, Etc.

Special attention given to Public, Private and Sunday School Libraries.

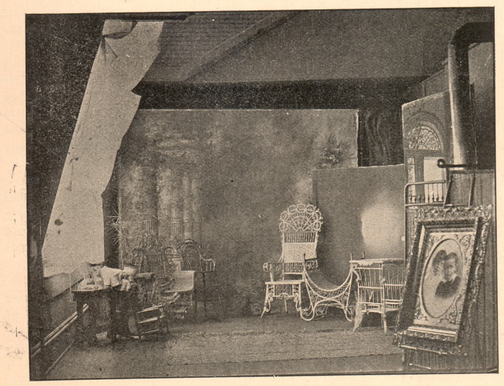
Gold Finishing. Bring in your Pocketbooks and Card Cases for lettering.

Agents for Choice English and German Books.

Charles City Book Bindery.

Main St., Opp. Court House.

Charles City, - - - - Iowa

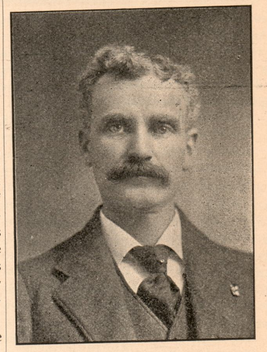


Interior of M. H. Vosburgh's Operating Room.

The Illinois Central Railroad.

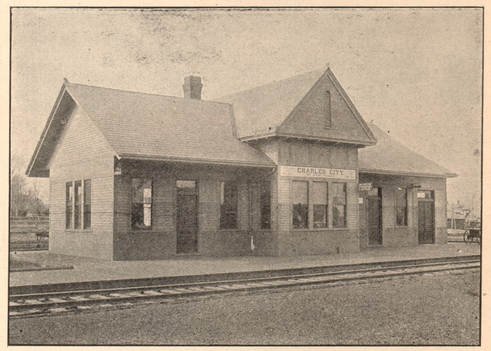
The relationship existing between the railroads, and the public is every year becoming better understood by both, and the result is beneficial to all. Their interests are largely identical, and the Illinois Central was one of the first of all the railroads to realize this fact, and take it into consideration in all its movements. To this fact, is largely due the prosperity of nearly every city and town located on its line. Charles City has felt the influence of this line of policy of the Illinois Central, more especially in the past two years. In fact, it is only within the past two years, that the Illinois Central has owned the Cedar Falls and Minnesota branch, it having previously been operated under a lease which permitted of no improvements

Now however, things have changed The Illinois Central has secured the C. F. & M. stock, and this branch is being rapidly brought up to the standard of the balance of the system. Charles City has been greatly improved and benefited by the recent change in location of this company's terminals in this city. From their former isolated location on the outskirts, they have been moved to a point but a few blocks from the business center of town. A modern and handsome passenger depot has been built on Main street. This depot is a model of convenience and comfort to the traveling public, being equipped with electric lights, steam heat, separate lavatories, etc. The change in location, and improvements connected there-with, cost the company $50,000, and it testifies to the abiding faith that the Illinois Central has in the future of Charles City. The Illinois Central system penetrates the states of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, Louisiana, Wisconsin, Missouri, South Dakota, Arkansas and Minnesota.



A. L. DODD,

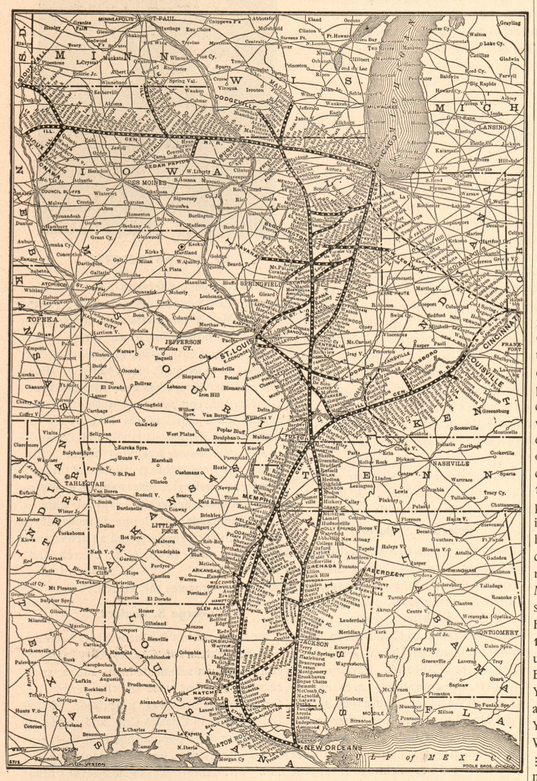
Agent Illinois Central Railroad Company at Charles City, Iowa.



Illinois Central Depot at Charles City, Iowa.

It is the longest north and south railroad in the world. Its Chicago suburban service is the greatest in the world. Its export facilities for shipment of grain at New Orleans are the largest in the world. Its service, both passenger and freight, are as good as the best, and excel most other lines. It forms the principal highway between the north and the south, and thousands go annually over its lines in quest of new homes and more favorable surroundings. It is an ideal route for the intending settler, reaching as it does the best portions and principal points of both north and south. The business of the railroad company is transportation. It wants more freight and passengers to transport, hence its desire to have the country developed along its lines. Every new home established, every new enterprise undertaken, every additional acre put under cultivation along its lines, means an increase of business. The buyer who comes in with new life and energy will be benefitted, and he probably will surpass his expectations, if they are not unreasonable.

His prosperity and the testimony of his experience will bring others, to the mutual benefit of the railroads and the country. The railroad company increasing its volume of business will be able to devise more liberal things for its patrons as opportunities offer. This is the line of policy pursued by the Illinois Central Railroad Co.; hence the prosperity of the line and the country tributary to it. The Illinois Central was the only line that built any new line in the state of Iowa during the year 1897. Within the past two years the mileage of this line has beennearly doubled by the acquisition of the following railroads: The Yazoo & Mississippi Valley, the Louisville, New Orleans & Texas, the Newport News and Mississippi Valley, the Cheaspeake and Ohio Southwestern, the Troy and Tiptonville, the Hodgenville and Elizabethtown, the St. Louis, Alton and Terre Haute, the Belleville City, the Owensboro Falls of Rough and Green River, the Chicago and Texas, the St. Louis, Belleville and So. and the Ohio Valley railroads. The rolling stock has been vastly increased by purchase of new engines, coaches and freight cars of all descriptions, in short, it is now one of the great railroad systems. It is a good thing to be located on a line of its magnitude and liberal policy. Charles City appreciates these facts and gives the company a liberal share of its patronage, which the company duly appreciates.

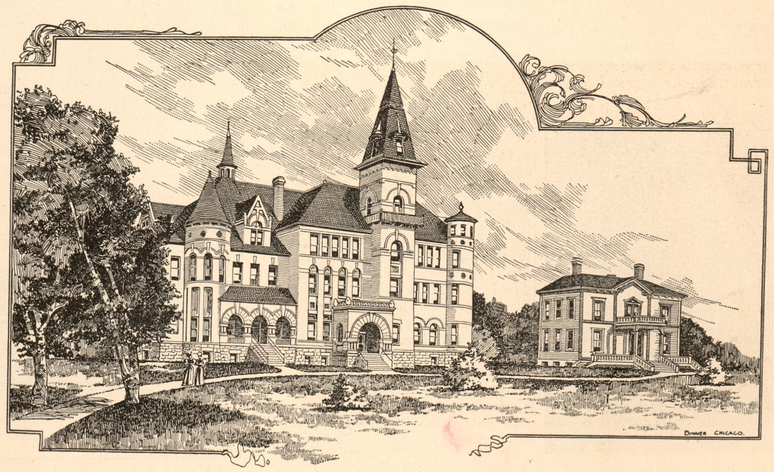


Map Showing Territory Traversed by the Illinois Central Railway.

Charles City College.

While under the auspices of the N. W. conference of the German M. E. church, the college is run on strictly non-sectarian principles. It is christian in spirit and methods of operation and all churches as well as those not professing any church preference are in attendance. The Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. associations do a great deal towards fostering christian work among the young people, and have been very active the last years. The college also maintains three literary associations for development in literary lines. These are the Washington and the Teutonia (German) for the young men and the Willard for the young ladies.

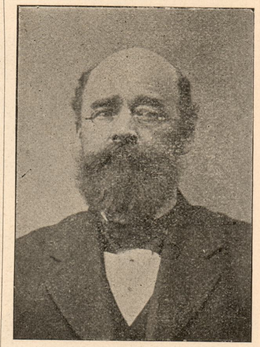
That the college is among our active and live institvtions is shown by the courses of good lectures and entertainments given to the public during the year. These are invariably of a high order and the students have thus the opportunity of seeing and hearing some of the best talent of the land at very little extra cost. It is impossible in the brief space alloted to us to speak of the departments of the college in detail. The commercial work has of late years been emphasized and enlarged very much. All the offices of regular business colleges are represented and the student gets a course in theory and in practice as thorough as may be found in most of the cost-ly professional schools. The rates of tuition, etc., are remarkably low. The science department has also been greatly equipped. A regular laboratory has been fitted out for the classes in chemistry, physics and biology, and the department is rapidly developing. The German language is taught in the vernacular by regular German professors. The students of theology receive all their special instruction in the German language and are being educated for the German ministry. Aside from this, however, the college is thoroughly English and there is practically no difference in this respect between the Charles City College and the other American institutions of learning. For those who wish to master the German language the Charles City College offers special facilities. The citizens of Charles City are justly proud of their college and do everything to help It along. The board of trustees are men who have the good interests of the school at heart and who are conversant with its special needs and purposes, and these with the backing of a large conference give the school a powerful prestige. Its students already represent it in nearly every state of the Union.



Charles City College and Boarding Hall.

Samuel B. Starr.

Mr. Starr is one of the oldest of the pioneers of Floyd county, having came to Charles City in October, 1855. Comparatively few have lived to see the marvelous changes which have been wrought in this portion of Iowa, which he has witnessed during the past forty-three years. He has withstood the trials and difficulties of the early days and is with us still. He is the oldest member now living of the Floyd county bar, and for most of the time since 1855, he has been actively engaged in the practice of law, and recognized as well up in his profession. For some years past his legal practice has been small—he withdrawing from active practice to enjoy the rest and leisure he has so richly earned. Mr. Starr was born in Brownville, Jefferson county, New York, January 17, 1824. His father died in 1832, and his mother in 1828. He attended school at Brownville until sixteen and was then matriculated in Black River Institute at Watertown, New York. Here he began the study of law, and in 1847 he was admitted to the New York bar at Albany. He practiced law at Watertown for a short time; then opened a mercantile store at Orleans, N. Y., in partnership with another gentleman, and conducted this business and prosecuted his profession until the winter of 1849, when, drawn thither by the current then prevailing, he went to the gold fields of California, where he remained two years, clearing $2,500. He returned to Orleans and resumed his business and practice. He was married there to Adeline Hughes in May, 1855. Two sons were born to them.



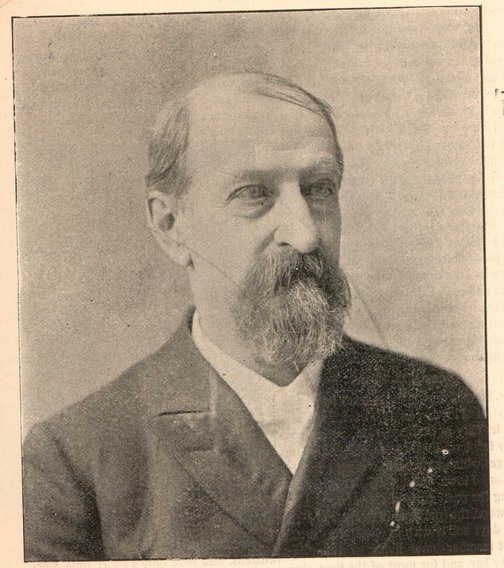
SAMUEL B. STARR.

The last son, S. H. Starr, one of Charles City's most esteemed and highly respected citizens, died here only a short time since.

Mr. Starr held the office of county attorney from 1856 to 1859, and has also been city attorney. Now on the decline of life with the sun almost set, he enjoys the competency which years of arduous labor has gained.

Hon. William B. Allison, U. S. S.

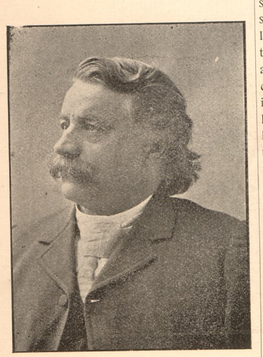
Of Dubuque, Iowa, was born at Perry, Ohio, March 2, 1829; was educated at the Western Reserve College, Ohio; studied law and practiced in Ohio until he removed to Iowa in 1857; served on the staff of the governor of Iowa and aided organizing volunteers in the beginning of the war for the suppression of the rebellion; was elected a representative in the Thirty-Eighth, Thirty-Ninth, Fortieth and Forty-First congress; was elected to the United States Senate as a republican, to succeed James Harlan, republican, and took his seat March 4, 1873. Was re-elected in 1878, 1884, 1890 and again in 1897. But little can be said to make brighter the now national fame of "Iowa's favorite son."



HON. THOS. UPDEGRAFF.

Hon. Thomas Updegraff, M. C.

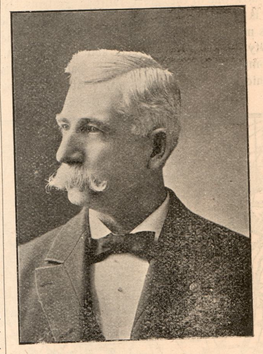
Mr. Updegraff, of McGregor, Iowa, and our honored representative in congress, was born in Tioga county, Pa., April 3, 1834; received an academic education; was appointed clerk of the district court of Clayton county, Iowa, April, 1856; was elected to that office in August of the same year and re-elected in 1858; was admitted to the bar and entered upon the practice of law in 1861, and has since followed that profession; was a member of the state house of representatives of Iowa and chairman of the judiciary committee of that body in 1878; was elected to the Forty-Sixth congress and re-elected to the Forty-Seventh congress as a republican; was a member of the board of education and city solicitor of McGregor, Iowa, for many years; was delegate to the republican national convention of 1888 and member of notification committee; was elected to the Fifty-Third and re-elected to the Fifty-Fourth congress as a republican, receiving 20,457 votes, against 13,304 for Babcock, democrat; 1,235 votes for Weller, populist, and 650 votes for Daley, prohibitionist. The splendid record of Mr. Updegraff in congress will inspire in his constituents a constantly growing confidence in his ability and value as a man and representative at our national capitol.



GEO. F. BOULTON.

George F. Boulton.

George F. Boulton, son of Z. D. Boulton and Rebecca A. whose maiden name was Bryan, was born in Burlington county, New Jersey. Removed early to Ohio, attended school at Mt. Union; went later to Indiana. Studied law with Hon. James O. Parks at Bourbon, Ind. At the breaking out of the war was a law student and deputy sheriff of Marshall county, was the second man to enroll his name as a soldier, the next day after Sumpter was fired on in April 1861, but the company of which he was 2d Lieut. was rejected; afterwards again enlisted having been commissioned a lieutenant by Governor Morton but was again rejected. His three brothers all enlisted and while two of them were with Logan at Mission Ridge, Jackson and Atlanta, Ga., and went with Sherman to the sea, Geo. F. has more rebel wounds to show than all of them in his conflicts with Indiana rebels. Afterwards was married to Sarah A. Updike, and attended one year at the Michigan university law school and came to Charles City in 1864 and engaged in the practice of law, first with G. G. Reiniger. Was an ardent republican up to Blaine's defeat in 1884 which he attributed to republican rascality. Was an active silver man as early as 1878 and not in good form with the party on the financial question ever after. In 1886, bought the Floyd County Democrat, and with his son-in-law, Mr. Detwiler, published it as the Citizen for two years; afterwards the Chillicothe (Missouri) Daily and Weekly Constitution. Afterwards engaged in newspaper and law business at Council Bluffs and Omaha for two years, returning to Charles City where he devoted himself to the practice of law ever since, earnestly supporting the candidacy of Mr. Bryan on the stump and through various newspaper correspondence. Never held office but received the support of the county for state senator in 1882, but was defeated for the nomination in the district composed of Floyd, Butler and Mitchell; engaged actively in the campaign for the prohibitory amendment, but soon abandoned prohibition as untenable. Was never known to do anything for popularity, and has always been a "pon" man to go in droves. Always takes sides in every conflict, never dodges the hard places.



D. E. MOORE.

Hon. John H. Gear, U. S. S.

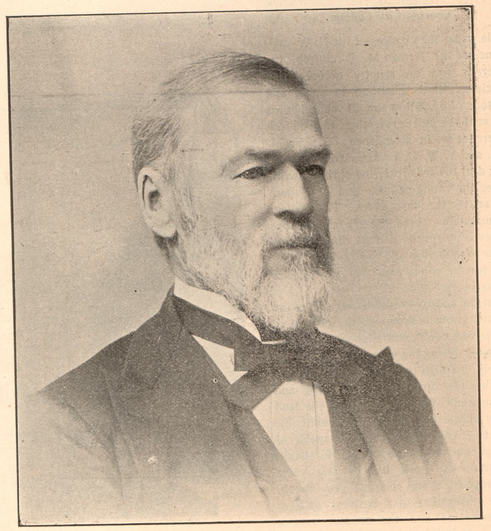
Mr. Gear was born in Ithaca, N. Y., April 7, 1825; received a common school education, moved to Galena, Ill., in 1836, to Ft. Snelling, Iowa Territory in 1838, where he engaged in merchandise, was elected mayor of the city of Burlington in 1863; was a member of the Iowa house of representatives of the Fourteenth, Fifteenth and Sixteenth general assemblies of the State, serving as speaker for the last two terms; was elected governor of Iowa in 1878-79 and again in 1880-81; was elected to the Fiftieth and Fifty-First congress; was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury under President Harrison; was elected to the Fifty-Third congress as a republican; was elected January 23, 1894, as senator in congress from the state of Iowa for six years, beginning March 4, 1895. In Senator Gear, Iowa feels a just pride, as he is a "tried and true" representative of the people, and one in whom the strongest confidence is placed by the people of this state. A fine likeness of Mr. Gear adorns this page.

Delavan E. Moore.

We now have under consideration one of the leading citizens of Charles City. He was born in New York 55 years ago, and lived there for many years, coming to Wisconsin in 1848; and after a series of years residence here, went to California in 1860. Mr. Moore entered the Union army as a member of the California Cavalry. But few soldiers, or companies, ever experienced severer or more continuous service than did Mr. Moore and the other members of his battalion during the late war. He was in forty-two battles—an almost continuous round of fighting from the time he entered the services. But few old veterans can show so fine a record. After the war Mr. Moore settled in Wisconsin and remained there for some years, coming to Charles City, Iowa, in 1885, as agent for the C. M. & St. P. Railroad Co. For 30 years Mr. Moore has been employed as agent by this company, and in this line he has but few equals, as his long years of faithful and continuous labor will demonstrate. Mr. Moore has also filled, with credit, the responsible positions of alderman, city clerk, etc. He is also a member of the Masonic fraternity as Past Emminent Commander of Joppa Commandry, No. 55, Knight Templars, and an active and honored member of the M. E. church and State Y. M. C. A. A portrait of Mr. Moore accompanies this sketch.

George S. Hanford.

Mr. Hanford has for many years been an honored citizen of Charles City. He is emphatically a self-made man, and a success in the fullest sense of the term. He for many years was proprietor of the Union House in Charles City, and made it one of the most popular hotels in northern Iowa. Politically he is an ardent republican. Mr. Hanford was twice elected to the



HON. JOHN H. GEAR.

GEO. S. HANFORD.

responsible position of auditor of Floyd county, and discharged the duties of the office to the emminent satisfaction of his constituents. His second term expired in 1896. In 1896, Mr. Hanford was a candidate for Secretary of State, and developed such a degree of strength and popularity throughout the state as to plainly demonstrate the fact of his being one of northern Iowa's strongest and most popular men. He was defeated by a small majority. Men of this stamp, the state is destined to hear from again. Mr. Hanford is an earnest and conscientious church worker and a member of the Congregational church of Charles City.

Hazelton & Wetherbee

Are the leading milkmen of Charles City, who by honest and fair dealing have secured a splendid patronage. One feature, which has contributed greatly to their success in this line, is a new and superior "wind" aerater, an engraving of which is here shown. This aerater is a new invention of Mr. Hazelton's, and from the results produced by it, is shown to be equal to, if not superior to, any other machine of its kind yet produced. It works perfectly even in a strong wind, and the excellency of the work produced is surprising. All taints and odors are removed from the milk in this way, even those which might be produced by the cows eating damaged feed, turnips, etc.

"Wind" Milk Aerater in Operation.

Universalist or All Soul's Church.

On the 28th of April, 1895, occurred the dedicatory services of the Universalist church. This is a splendid edifice and one of the most handsome and best appointed churches in the city. The building covers a foundation 50x62 feet, with a splendid finished basement beneath the whole. The main auditorium is 30x50 feet, with a lecture room opening into it which is 20x24, and which, when desired, may be made part of the auditorium. The entire building is lighted by electricity, and heated by a large modern furnace. The basement is fitted up for the use of the Sunday school, socials, suppers, etc. It is supplied with a reception room, ample dining room and kitchen, and is in fact one of the best appointed and fitted up churches in the city. The windows of the church are beautiful specimens of the glass makers art. A good idea of this fine structure may be gained by a glance at the accompanying cut. In the spring of 1888 the first sermon embracing the larger hope of "The Fatherhood of God, and the Brotherhood of Man," was preached in the christian church by Rev. A. A. Thayer, who at irregular intervals continued to preach here. Rev. Annette Waltz Crossman, of Maine, and Rev. Llewellen from Dakota, each preached acceptably for a short time. In the fall of 1890, Rev. Mrs. Crum, State missionary, accompanied by a young man by the name of Albert C. Grier, came to the city. A few of the friends of the Universalist faith gathered at the home of Mr. J. H. Owen where Mr. Grier read his maiden sermon. This "boy preacher" grew to be an eloquent and forceful exponent of the truth, and remained here until the fall of 1893, when he was called to LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Following Mr. Grier, as pastor, came Rev. J. Mulholland, who for sometime filled the pulpit most acceptably. Rev. G. Linton was then chosen pastor and for sometime occupied the pulpit. Dr. N. S. Sage, L. L. D., a man of rare ability and attainments, is the present pastor of this church, having been called to this charge about the middle of November, 1897. This parish was organized December 16, 1890; with twenty-nine charter members. Since that time this number has been largely increased. Beginning with only a handful this society has worked steadily up until today they are able to occupy a splendid and commodious home of their own, and with the self-confidence that in the future with the same effort as in the past, they will be able to accomplish even more than they have already done. The present officers of the parish are: Moderator, Dr. E. D. Bishop; clerk, J. C. Sterns; treasurer, Mrs. Fannie Barney; trustees, Clayton Henry, E. J Fisher, Miss Clara M. Daley. The church now has a prosperous Sunday school, a Young People's Christian Union, Ladies' Aid society, etc. But few church organizations have members more zealous and watchful of the best welfare of their churches interests than is their present clerk.

Dyke & Dyke....

High Art

PRINTERS

....Charles City, Iowa.

Universalist or All Souls Church

Blumenstiel & Smith,

Photographers

Finest and Best Equipped Studio in the city

Ground Floor.

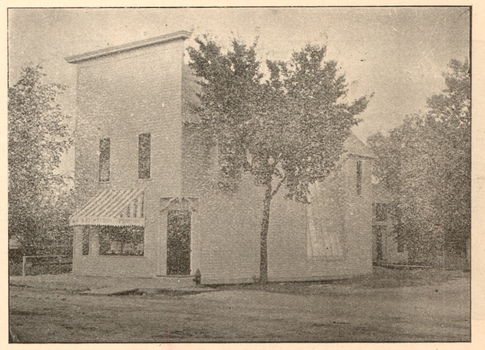
New and Improved Appliances.

From the Smallest to the Largest Views Made.

GROUPS A SPECIALTY.

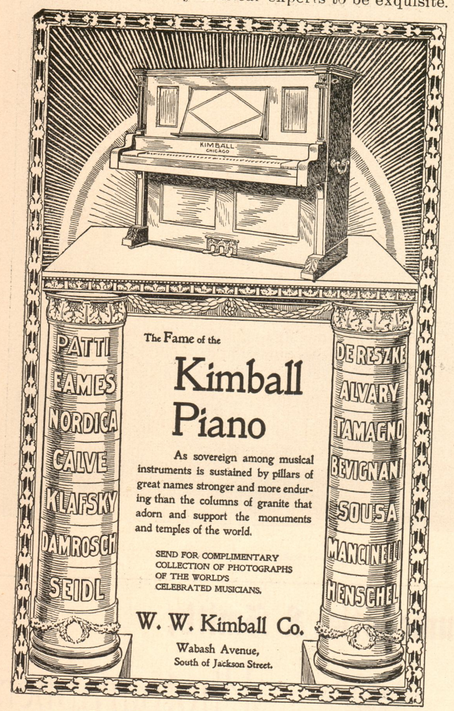
Enlarging, Viewing, Crayon, Interior Work, Etc., a Specialty.

One Block North of Hildreth Hotel, Charles City, Ia.



Photograph Studio of Blumenstiel & Smith.

How many skimmings off the milk? How many profits to dealers, not makers? One only, if it is a Kimball

A piano admitted by musical experts to be exquisite.

A "Colonial" Example.

Write L. S. Parsons, = = = Waterloo, Iowa.

The Value of Local History.

What do you know of the history of your own town or county, and of other portions of your own state? is a question now very frequently asked. Do you know the meaning of the various names on the map—of the town, stream, lakes, etc? Local history is very much the fashion nowadays. Even school children are busy searching the town and county records, and questioning the oldest inhabitants, and in many places the local history has been written up and adopted by the school boards as a text book in their public schools.

Public spirited people in some of our larger cities have organized Social History clubs and are cultivating civic pride by an interest in the past of their respective cities and portions of the states. The "village Hamdens" and "mute inglorious Miltons" are being searched out and proper respect being paid to the memory of many a man whose service to town or county has not been recorded in the history of the state or nation. Each county, town and hamlet has its own particular history, interesting to all its dwellers, as well as many others. The idea is capable of development everywhere and the work gives a rich return for the time spent.

Log Cabin Built in Charles City, Iowa, by David Green in 1853.

FLOYD, IOWA.

Something About the Oldest Town in the County—Its Early Settlement, Growth and Present Conditions, With Sketches of Its Most Prominent Citizens.

The village of Floyd was laid out by James Griffith and H. C. Tatum, in 1855, and occupies a beautiful situation on the west bank of the Cedar. High and romantic bluffs border the stream just above the town, and lends a charm to the scene surpassed by no other place on this beautiful river, within the bounds of the county. To the east and northeast is a belt of timber, while on the other sides are beautiful rolling prairies, now under a high state of cultivation. In 1855 the first water and saw and grist mill in the township was erected on the Cedar at Floyd. The grist mill had two run of stone. Thomas Sprague opened the first store and postoffice in Floyd in 1855, and William Sprague was his deputy. The building he opened in was purchased in St. Charles, torn down and removed to Floyd. It was composed of poplar logs. During this same year Andrew Rice set in motion a steam saw mill, raising his smoke stack on Christmas day, amid great rejoicing.

In 1856, Wm. Carl laid out his addition to Floyd village on the west of the original plot. In 1857 Griffith and Chittenden laid out an addition. In 1858 Wm Montgomery laid out his addition on the south side of the original plot. These additions and the original plot covered about 250 acres of land. At this time anticipation ran high and it was hoped to make this a county seat, and with her splendid waterpower it was thought much manufacturing would locate here. For a time the town grew faster than the county, and lots sold at fine figures. About this time and later Floyd suffered some severe losses and the county seat decided lost in 1858.

Though reverses and losses have come, still Floyd at the present day is a pleasant little town to live in, has quite an extensive trade and is one of the several railroad towns of the county. Floyd has two churches in a healthy and thriving condition. The Methodist Episcopal society was organized in 1857, and the church edifice was erected in 1862, and dedicated Jan. 19, 1863.

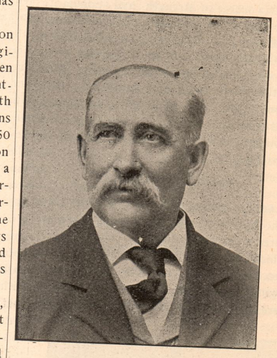
The Christians were organized in 1861. In 1870 the Presbyterian church was organized and built a house of worship.

An independent school district was organized March 22, 1862, and in 1867 it was voted to build a school house. A block of land was purchased and Mr. O. Haven contracted with to build. The building was accepted in 1868 and the first school taught here in 1870. This is a fine stone building and conspicuous from all points.

This village has very pleasant homes and some fine dwellings, and possesses a class of people second to none to be found anywhere. She also has several general mercantile houses—dry goods, groceries, hardware, etc.; a shoe store, millinery establishment, harness shop, barber shop blacksmith shop, postoffice. farm machinery warehouse, a good creamery, a splendid hotel and other institutions to be found in a thriving village.

A. S. Griffith.

Gn the 26th of October, 1836, at Solon, Cuyahoga county, Ohio, the subject of this memore was born. His birth place was located within four miles of where Garfield was born. While yet a boy he left his birth place and with his parents came to Kane county, Ill., and remained for a time, then went to Crystal Lake, Ill., and remained here one year, then in the spring of 1854 removed to Rock Grove, this county, where he settled on land taken up by his father—land which afterwards was owned by Dr. Blythe. His father built the first saw mill and store at Rock Grove. After this Mr. Griffith moved to Floyd, and during most of his subsequent life has resided here. For short periods during this time, he resided in Arkansas and Indiana. While in the latter state in 1861 he enlisted as a musician in the 18th Indiana regiment of volunteers and remained in the service for slightly more than one year. Mr. Griffith has since 1867 been the leading spirit in the business enterprises and advancement of Floyd, and to his enterprise and public spirit this place owes much of the prosperity which has been hers. Mr. Griffith



A. S. GRIFFITH.

brought his first stock of goods to this place in the fall of 1866, and continued most of the time in the mercantile business until three years ago, when he sold out. He is president of the school-board of Floyd, and ten years ago became interested in the Teaching Printing Co. of Charles City, and now owns one-third of its stock. He is also interested in the Western Lake Resort Co. of Clear Lake, Iowa, and with Dr. Dennis, controls the Chicago office for the cure of rupture and is doing a thriving business, and a business, we understand, which is of inestimable value to the people suffering from this misfortune. Such men are deserving of the highest success. Accompanying this article will be seen a fine likeness of the subject of this sketch. Mr. Griffith was married November 1, 1863, to Mary A. Rice, danghter of Andrew Rice. They have had two children, Lillian E. and Clarence A.

G. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart was born near Waitsfield, Vermont, on February 8, 1847; and lived here several years and then with his parents moved to Cedar Falls, Iowa. Here they remained for a time, but becoming discontented with the new wesf, returned to Vermont and bought the old farm home back again and remained on it for two years.

But this state did not retain its old-time charm for them, so along early in 1853,

Mr. Stewart, with his parents, came to Floyd, in Floyd county, Iowa. This was only a little border hamlet then. His people entered an 80 acre tract of government land about one-half mile west of Floyd, and lived here for two years; and then moved to another section a short distance away.

Mr. Stewart has followed farming and stock raising in a moderate way most of his life. While yet engaging in this business he erected a fine brick residence.

About four years ago Mr. Stewart disposed of his farm and purchased the Stewart House in the village of Floyd, and fitted it up and conducted it as a hotel. For three years, or until he gave up the business, he conducted a first class house.

On the 17th of September, 1871, Mr. Stewart was married to Miss Lucy Loban. On August 20, 1896, Mrs. Stewart died at Floyd, which compelled Mr. Stewart to give up the hotel business. On the 28th of May, 1897. Mr. Stewart received his appointment as postmaster at Floyd, and is recognized as one of the most efficient men who has filled the place.

He is regarded as one of the leading and most substantial men of Floyd. He has been a staunch republican, and a leading member of the M. E. church since he was eighteen years of age and for the past ten years has been an official in the same.

Mr. Stewart well recalls the trying experiences of the early days when the nearest market was at McGregor on the Mississippi nearly a hundred miles to the east, and when the Indians still roamed the region and the prairies were yet unbroken.

Carrville.

This is a "siding" or small village on the Illinois Central railroad a few miles to the southeast of Charles City, and much resembles many of the New England villages which have a much more pretentious name and extended reputation.

Only a few buildings, a small railroad station, etc., are located here. Some shipping is done from this point.

Powersville.

This is a small but pleasantly located "farm village," situated in the extreme south-central portion of the county, and surrounded by as fine farming lands, and well kept and improved farms as are to be found in any other portion of the state. Could she secure the long contemplated railroad which may perhaps in time extend south from Charles City, she would secure new life and prestige. From small beginnings the largest cities of our continent have grown.

Niles.

Is a small village, and takes its name from the township in which it is located. It is pleasantly situated on the Little Cedar, and is surrounded by a beautiful and wonderfully fertile region. The highly improved and well kept farms around attest to the thrift and enterprise of the people. This town has one or two stores; blacksmith and repair shop, postoffice, telephone line, creamery, etc. Religious services are also held here, and a thriving Sabbath School maintained, which speaks volumes for any community.

Ernie, or "Floyd Crossing."

About three miles northwest from Charles City on the line of the C. M. & St. Paul railroad, this village is situated. While it consists only of a ware house, station and a few farm houses and formerly a store, still considerable shipping business is done at this point. Owing to its nearness to other towns, it of course cannot anticipate any rapid increase in size.

Nora Springs.

Heavy native timber surrounds the village on all save the southwest side, where stretches away for miles and miles rich rolling prairie land, now under a fine state of cultivation. The first settlement on the town site was by Mr. Wiltfong, in 1853. At this period he built a cabin on the site of the present mill. This region appears to have been too wild to suit him for he sold out within less than a year and went to Cedar Falls, where he still resided when last heard from. M. S. Snow came here from Jones county in the spring of 1855, with his wife and one daughter.

Nora Springs was surveyed and platted in 1857 by John West, C. M. Allen and Edwin Gaylord. An addition was made by E. P. Greely, from Nashua, before the plat was recorded. They first named the place Woodstock, from Woodstock, Ill., but it was afterwards changed to Nora Springs.

The first school house in the county was built here in the fall of 1853, in what is now the eastern part of the town. Fuller reference to this, the pioneer school house of the county, is elsewhere given and an engraving of the same shown. This drawing was made by the writer from an accurate description of the building, etc., furnished him by Mr. Edson Gaylord, one of the original constructors of this old log school house.

The town of Nora Springs was incorporated in the summer of 1874, and the council held its first meeting August 31, of that year. Nora Springs is beautifully located on high ground on the east bank of the Shell Rock. She has most of the business enterprises and mercantile establishments usually found in a village of her size. She has two railroads—the B., C. R. & N., and C. M. & St. P. She also has two splendid newspapers, high school, a fine seminary, etc., etc.

The Nora Springs Telephone

This paper was started in 1877, the first number appearing May 31. The publishers were L. J. Keyes & Co., and L. J. Keyes and W. P. Gaylord were the editors. The Telephone was a four paged, eight column weekly, newsy and bright.

This journal, from that time to this, has passed through many changes, but is still published at Nora Springs, and is owned and edited at the present time by Mr. S. M. Mitchell.

This journal is a bright fresh eight paged publication, up with these advanced times in all respects, and a fearless exponent of the truth as it sees it; ever ready with its columns and influence to aid in whatever is for the best welfare of Nora Springs.

Mr Mitchell, aside from being editor and proprietor of the Telephone, was, until very recently, also proprietor of Hotel Mitchell here and it is but truth to say this city never had a more genial and popular landlord Here the traveling public was well cared for and "always found it a pleasure to put up at Hotel Mitchell."

The Nora Springs Advertiser.

This bright journal is published at Nora Springs every Thursday by Mr. Will H. Foster. It was started in the summer of 1882, the first number appearing July 4. It merits and has achieved splendid success; has a growing list of subscribers and its advertising columns are well patronized, which indicates its special worth. This is a large eight paged paper with six columns to the page, is nicely gotten up and ably edited and would be a credit to any place. This journal was originally started by F. M. Hubbard, and has been in the hands of its present owner but a short time. Mrs. Foster in her editorial capacity, contributes no small share to the success and interest which this bright journal has attained. With such an aid, the editor of this paper is sure to keep in the front ranks of Iowa journalism.

Why Not?

Why not a better representation of Nora Springs an t her interests in the History of Floyd County? Apparently for the lack of public spirit, and perhaps political and other unfounded differences, she prefers to stand alone—although every facility for representation has been extended to her—and, with the exception of the progressive editors of her two newspapers, has refused to contribute a single line in her own interests. This is bad. She has possessed one institution, however, which is a credit to her—the old log school house, mentioned and illustrated elsewhere.

Rock Grove.

Rock Grove is one of the towns of the past. In the earlier pioneer days it was a village of some promise and boasted of several general stores, a blacksmith shop, post office, school, saw mill, etc., and later on a grist mill was built on the Shell Rock a short distance to the west. Today only a few houses stand here as monuments of "what might have been." Nora Springs, about two miles to the northwest, and which possessed numerous natural advantages over this village, finally absorbed it.

RUDD, IOWA.

A Bustling Little Town—Early History, Present Development, Her Value as a Shipping Point, Etc.

In another place an outline history of Rudd township is given. The first settlers in this township located here in 1853, before the land came into market. Rudd village is located on the east bank of Flood Creek, on the border of the timber as it joins the prairie, and is surrounded on every side by a vast stretch of beautiful farming lands, nearly all now under a high state of cultivation. This village, formerly called Danville, was laid out and platted in the fall of 1869 by James Swartwood, who erected the Swartwood House. Some of the early pioneers of this place reside here yet, and by their firesides now in "these days of peace," enjoy recounting the trials and hardships they participated in during the days of the past when this region was new.

Rudd is one of the most wide-awake towns of the county and has one of the best grain markets to be found, they drawing from various regions, often as far away as Osage, Rock Falls, etc. New residences and business houses are being erected and an air of general prosperity pervades the place. She has more churches according to her size than any other town in the county, and this fact alone speaks volumes in its favor.

A good iron bridge was built across Flood Creek at Rudd in 1872. This town is located on the C. M. & St. Paul railroad and does a thriving business in various lines.

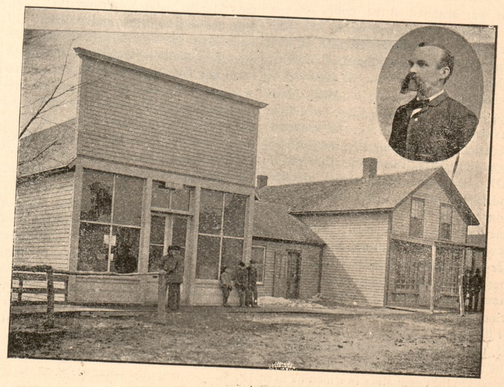
P. . Leishman.

The genial and accommodating postmaster at Rudd, the subject of this sketch, was appointed to this office in the spring of 1894, although he has been a life-long republican.

He was born in Lanaskshier, Scotland, Jan 4, 1857. His parents emmigrated to this country in the spring of 1870, when Mr. Leishman was thirteen years of age; and settled in eastern Ohio, Columbiana county. Here he worked on a farm and in coal mines until he reached his majority. In the fall of 1878 he went to Wheeler county, Nebraska. The county was wild and new, and he experienced all the hardships and trials incident to life on the front. The land on which he settled was afterward brought before the public as a location for the county seat, but was finally abandoned for another situation near the geographical center of the county.

For some time Mr. Leishman was in the employ of the general government, and aided in the erection of Fort Niabrara and was there during the uprising incident to the murder of the great Sioux chief, Spotted Tail, and saw the murderer, Crow-Dog, as he was being taken to the military prison by the authorities. In 1885 he again journeyed westward and settled in the "Panhandle" of Nebraska in Dawes county. Out of this county a new connty was established, and Mr. Leishman was the first Justice of the Peace and school director elected in this new division. Of the old settlers' association in Nebraska, Mr. Leishman was a prominent and active member, always taking a great interest in the proceedings and organization.

He was one time appointed, during President Harrison's administration, as assistant



P. M. Leishman, His Store and the Postoffice.

postmaster at Alliance, Nebraska. This was an important appointment the office being of the first class. This position he finally resigned to accept the position of station agent at Alliance for the B. & M. R. R. Co. This was an important position also as it was a Division Station on the main line from Lincoln to Deadwood, and headquarters for some of the officials of the Wyoming division.

In the fall of 1892, Mr. Leishman was chosen as one of a committee of five to accompany and take charge of a carload of the products of his county which was sent to the state fair at Lincoln. After this he came to Rudd, Iowa, to visit friends and while here exchanged some property for an interest in a stock of general merchandise, and together with R. E. Alcott embarked in the mercantile business under the firm name of Alcott & Leishman.

For the past five years Mr. Leishman has been local cashier for the Hunting Elevator Co.; local treasurer for the Iowa Mutual Building and Loan association, of Dubuque, and the Home Savings & Trust Co., of Des Moines; also local collector for the Floyd County Farmer's Mutual Insurance company, as well as secretary of the school board of Rudd. Mr. Lieshman is one of the most public spirited men in Rudd, and takes a deep and abiding interest in everything that concerns the best interests of his town and community. On the 20th of March, 1889, he was married to Miss Sarah L. Arkills, daughter of M. E. and Rachael Arkills, of Rudd, and has one daughter, Alice Lenore, seven years of age, and possesses one of the most pleasant and happy homes in the country. The cuts which accompany this sketch presents a good likeness of Mr. Leishman and his store and postoffice.

Hotel Rudd,

.....By Mrs Clara Cline.

Special Attention Given to Commercial Trade.

Best Accommodations.

$1.00 PER DAY.

.....RUDD, IOWA.

Rev. Moses E. Arkills.

We here give a brief biographical sketch of the late Rev. Arkills, without which an injustice would be done. Mr. Arkills was born in Ulster county, N. Y., January 7, 1826, and spent his boyhood days in various portions of New York. His education was acquired at the public schools. He was ordained as a minister in the Baptist church, November 26, 1858, at West Danby, N. Y., by G. W. Huntley; preached in New York seven years. He removed to Sycamore, Ill, in 1867; to Malta, Ill., in 1868; then to Clarksville, Ia., where he was sick for some time. In 1869 moved to Fredericksburg, Ia., where he remained for about nine years, then came to Rudd in 1877. He studied medicine and practiced under Dr. Rufus Talmage, of Enfield, N, Y. from 1855 to 1858. He also studied medicine for two years under Dr. Benedict, of Havana, N. Y. He built up a good practice in Rudd, organized the Baptist church there July 13, 1878, and preached for the same, part of the time. He practiced medicine until about two months of the time of his death, which occurred November 25, 1897. He was a true christian man in the fullest sense of the term, and is greatly missed in the community in which he lived.

High School of Rudd.

In educational matters, Rudd has always been abreast of the times. The first school building, a log structure, was erected by Alex. Hemphill on John Hemphill's land, in 1863. This was located about one-half mile north from the present village of Rudd. The first school was taught by Henry Harriman. Previous to that the children were sent to a log school house in what now constitutes Rock Grove township, and near where the Bragg school house is now situated. Thomas Bennett was Director of the first school. The next school house, a frame building 21x30 feet, was erected in 1868. John Hemphill was Director, and cut trees from his own land; hauled them to Rock Grove and had the lumber sawed for this building, except the finishing lumber, which was brought from Austin, Minn. Geo. D. Clark and Dean DeLong erected this building. Miss Sarah Ankeny taught the first school therein. The present building, a two story structure, 30x50 feet and 22 feet high, was erected by Geo. D. Clark and Orlando Bagley, in 1874. D. S. Wood was Director and to him is due in a great measure, credit for the success of the undertaking. For many years the two lower rooms were used for school purposes, and the upper room as a Town Hall, as well as for a house of worship for the various religious denominations. In the spring of 1895, the distrct became independent. H. C. May, A. J. Cline and W. H. Kennedy constituted the first Board. The school is now properly graded, has three rooms and a nine year course. Owing to the crowded condition of this school an addition to the present building in all probability will be erected during the present year. The "Upper Room" is at present in charge of Miss Lydia M. Knight. who is Principal, with Miss Maude G. Sergeant, in charge of Intermediate department and Miss Mabel Smith in charge of Primary department. The School Board now consists of three members: H. Summers, J. W. Cline and P. M. Leishman; the latter acting as secretary and E. F. Dunlap as treasurer. Owing to a change in the school laws of Iowa, the Board will consist of five members after the spring election. The number of scholars in the first school erected in this region was about ten, while the number in the Rudd graded school at the present time is about one hundred and twenty-five.

High School Building of Rudd.

David S. Wood.

One of the leading citizens of Floyd county came to the "wilds of Northern Iowa," in 1854, and selected land where he still resides at Rudd. Then this region was a wild unbroken prairie, still inhabited by deer and wolves. From this wild prairie he has evolved a fine, well cultivated farm of 182 acres. Most of his time has been devoted to farming and stock raising. He it was who, in 1877, purchased the famous Percheron Stallion, Robertsperrie, which was imported from France by A. W. Cook. In 1897 this horse died at Beeler's Grove near Marble Rock. The accompaning cut presents a good likeness of Mr. Wood and this well known horse. Mr. Wood was born in Upper Canada, March 29, 1827. With his parents he came to Boone county, Ill., in 1842, and in 1851, he came to Cedar county, Iowa, and then in 1854 came to this county. He was married February 22, 1854, to Harriett E. Thomas. Mrs. Wood was born on the 23d of January, 1834, in Calhoun county, Mich., and died at home in Rudd on the 8th of February, 1897. They are the parents of six children. Mr Wood has been Justice of the Peace for many years, and has established an enviable record as county supervisor during the several years he held this important office. Mr. Wood is a public spirited and progressive citizen, up with the times, and of the class which prove themselves of inestimable value to the community in which they reside. He has lived to see, and helped to bring about, the vast and marvelous changes which have taken place in this county since the days of '54.

David S. Wood, and Horse—Robertsperrie

Henderson & Roy,

Dealers in

Jewelry and Sporting Goods.

Rudd, Iowa.

MULLER & KOLLMAN

DEALER IN

Groceries, Dry Goods, Paints, Hardware, Etc.

Best Goods at Lowest Prices

FAIR DEALING.

RUDD, - - IOWA

The Rudd Clipper.

The Clipper was started at Rudd between one and two years ago, being now in the second volume. The editor and proprietor is John Hickok, Jr. It appears as an eight-page weekly. Its editorials are spicy and vigorous, and Mr. Hickok has well shown his special fitness for the business. While a young man, but few of older years can surpass him in this line of business. He has a good and constantly growing list of subscribers, and a fine advertising patronage, which indicates its worth.

ROCKFORD, IOWA.

The Prettiest Town on the Shell Rock—When and by Whom Laid Out—Early History and Events—Present Development and Growth—Sketches and Mention of Some of Her Leading Citizens and Business Men.

Nature has done much for Rockford. It is situated on a broad, more or less level area, between two beautiful streams, and just above their junction with one another To the west, the broad and beautiful valley is bordered by a range of broken and picturesque hills, and the high land which forms the east bank of the Shell Rock contributes a happy contrast to the low ground of the west side, on which the business portion of the town is built.

Not only did the pioneers early recognize the loveliness of this beautiful situation, but during the years of the distant past, the moundbuilders lived here and occupied this region as their home, and left the record of their occupancy in the many enduring mound monuments now found in the region. The Indians of later years also sought out this beautiful place and loved it, and long after its occupancy by the whites, visited it and reviewed their old camps again. Along the east bank of the Shell Rock, and running close to its precipitious, rocky bank, is the remnant of an old Indian trial. For an unknown period in the past, this old trail was worn by moccasined feet, but now is pressed only by the foot of the white man. The eastern half of the town is given over to residences of her citizens, although many also occupy the west side. Rockford was laid out in June, 1856, by a company then residing in Rockford, Ill. The sight was selected, we believe, by Mr. George Wyatt, the agent of the company.

Today Rockford has many mercantile and other business houses, representing almost every line of trade, including two feed mills, electric light plant, a good system of waterworks, four churches, a graded school, a railroad (the B. C. R. & N.), general warehouses, creamery, elevators, two hotels (the Bebee house, one of the best in northern Iowa), good streets, two iron bridges spanning the Shell Rock and Lime Creek, two banks, physicians, lawyers, etc. Frequent mention of this place is made elsewhere in this work. Among the leading citizens here deserving special mention are those whose biographical sketches, etc., follow:

George E. Bird.

Mr. Geo. E. Bird came to Rockford, Ia., from Rochelle, Ill., in 1885, and located on a farm a short distance east of town, and here resided for about five years. In the autumn of 1889 he engaged in the implement business in Rockford and has continued in the same up to the present time. From a very small beginning Mr. Bird has built up a large and lucrative business and enjoys the confidence and good will of all who have business relations with him. From his practical knowledge of the needs of the farmer, and from his experience as a dealer, he has been enabled to select a very choice line of implements, such as John Deere plows, Deere Disc harrows, Deere corn planters, Axtel cultivators, Champion binders and mowers and Standard mowers, J. I. Case threshing machines and Webber wagons, all of which are emphatically leaders. He also carries a full line of windmills, pumps, buggies, road wagons, surreys, sewing machines and organs. From our long and intimate acquaintance with the subject of this sketch we can say, no man of Rockford or elsewhere can offer better inducements to his customers than does Mr. Bird. In dealing with him they are assured of honorable and just dealing, courteous treatment and a correct representation of the goods he handles. In 1895 Mr. Bird erected a fine residence in Rockford, a cut of which is here shown. It is fitted with modern conveniences, such as furnace, bath room, hot and cold water, etc. It is centrally located, which is is a great convenience to a business man.

Residence of George E. Bird.

Jake Deal.

Of the hunters and trappers of the early days of this county Mr. Deal is, so far as I am aware, the only representative left with us today, and now resides at Rockford. He represents that hardy and venturesome class of men to whom the world owes so much, and the class who has paved the way for the occupation of every new country by the "settler" who was to come after them. In the annals of our country's history no class of men may stand higher. Later we hope to be able to give much of the personal history and experience of this "pioneer of pioneers."

Clifton H. Frizelle, M. D.

Among the medical fraternity of Floyd county Dr. Frizelle of Rockford ranks as one of the foremost scientific practioners. He is an Iowa man, being born and educated in the state, receiving his degree from the college of physicians and surgeons at Keokuk, a member of the Lee county, the Austin Flint and the Iowa State medical societies, also of the American medical association. He has, during his three years residence in Rockford, gained the confidence and patronage of a large number of the best people of that place and vicinity. His office is large and richly furnished; an extensive library containing the latest medical books and magazines adorns the office waiting room. The most improved appliances for the treatment of catarrh and other chronic diseases are to be found here. Among other things a very complete electrical armamentarium. He has lately added a Betz dry hot air bath apparatus for the successful treatment of acute, chronic, articular and muscular rheumatism, gout, sprained and stiffened joints. This apparatus also furnishes a ready means for the sterilization of surgical instruments and dressing. Dr. Frizelle also holds a registered pharmacist's certificate, granted in April, 1889, from the Iowa State Commission of Pharmacists. Rockford and vicinity are certainly fortunate in the possession of so competent and thoroughly up-to-date physician.

CLIFTON H. FRIZELLE, M. D.

John Turner.

One of the old settlers and most substantial and successful farmers of the west side of the county is Mr. John Turner. For thirty years he has been a resident of Floyd county. He came from Courtland county, New York, in an early day and settled on a farm about four miles north from Rockford, and by perseverance, economy and hard work has secured a splendid competency. Mrs. Turner has played no small part in winning the success which is theirs. In 1896 they erected a fine residence in the east part of Rockford, and here they reside to enjoy the well-earned fruits of their labor. They have five children, Ella E., Frank D., Elizabeth A., Jay E. and Oscar D., all of whom are now residing in the county, three living in Charles City.

The Beebe House.

One of those neat, home-like hotels for which Iowa has become famous is the Beebe house at Rockford, under the able management of Mr. Frank Durkee, the genial and deservedly popular proprietor. The traveling public speaks in the highest terms of this hotel and its proprietor, and well it may. This house is kept fully up with the times in every particular; has steam heat, bath rooms, closets, electric lights, etc., and the comfort and convenience of the guests always given special attention. Bus to and from all trains.

This hotel was established in 1856 by Ransom Knapp, conducted for three years and then sold to John Harriman, who had it for about two years and then sold to B. F. Beebe of Wisconsin. Mr. Beebe afterwards sold it to Levi Lyons, who conducted it for a while.

The present Beebe house was erected by B. F. Beebe in 1871 and opened to the public. His son-in-law, Wm. Durkee, was in partnership with Mr. Beebe, and the two ran it until 1881, when the property was sold to Mr. Durkee. Later the proprietors were Durkee & Critchfield. Today, and for years past, the proprietor is Frank Durkee, son of Wm. Durkee. Rockford should certainly feel a just pride in one of her younger citizens who has been able not only to maintain the high reputation of their hotel, but even to add to that standing.

School World.

This is the title of a small weekly paper published in Rockford by one Leonard Lewis, a young man not very well up in years, but quite capable of taking care of himself and The World. The editor of this sheet has the reputation at home of "never sleeping," as he has a knack of invariably "ketching on" to everything that may or has happened. This World also has the reputation of doing more kicking to the square inch than any other journal of its size and years this side of the day of judgment. In wit and humor it is second only to Puck, Judge, etc. Should its ability increase with its years, what will the afterwards be?

Mrs. T. W. Haslet,

of Rockford, is a fine example of what a bright, energetic woman can do in the business world. Against difficulties and

obstacles she has struggled, until she has built up a good trade in silverware, of which she carries a fine line, and sells as cheap as the cheapest. Parties desiring fine presents for their friends, or wedding gifts, will do well to call on her. She also has the county right for one of the latest and best "lightning quilters" yet invented. It is a new and novel invention with which

The "Lightning Quilter" in Operation.

any person can quilt any design and complete the work on a quilt in one day. It will quilt a comfort, do fancy work on shirts, pillow shams, scarfs and robes. Work done with this quilter will never shrink, break or draw in washing. It can be used on any sewing machine, and in the way shown in the cut. This "The Evans Lightning Quilter" should be in the home of every lady, and solicitors could do a good business in introducing it. Solicitors are desired in every town in the county.

Rockford Register.

The press, the mightiest factor in building up and promoting the interests of a city or country, is ably represented in Rockford by the Register, a bright, newsy paper published by J. S. Trigg. This paper was established twenty-five years ago, but during that time has appeared under different headings and management. Mr Trigg has been editor and publisher of this journal for nearly, if not quite ten years, and has made of it a positive success.

One valuable and important feature of The Register is the farm department, which is most ably conducted by Mr. Trigg. The contents of this department are widely quoted, which speaks volumes for its value and popularity. Its editor is one of the most popular speakers on farm topics we have, and one whose services at farmers' institutes is widely sought for through northern Iowa. While always aggressively republican, The Register is at any and all times ready and willing to use its columns for the advancement of Rockford and Floyd county. Its editor is an old pioneer, as well as a veteran of our late war. The trials and hardships of the early settlers he knows full well by personal experience, and the dangers and privations of camp life and the battle field he has witnessed and shared in.

Rockford Gazette.

A few years ago the Rockford Gazette made its first entry on the journalistic world. It has maintained a leading position among the Iowa newspapers because of its advanced ideas and fearless expression of its views. It was started as a stock company enterprise and has changed hands several times. It is now owned by Mr. B. F. Wright of Charles City. G. F. Whitney is local editor. The Gazette is issued every Tuesday, is a bright newspaper, and its clear, sharp editorials are often quoted, which amply proves its worth. The circulation of the Gazette is large. A good job office is also conducted, where superior work is turned out. The management of this journal is fortunate in securing so able a local editor as Mr. G. F. Whitney. He has had a most extended experience in this business, having been engaged for many years on different journals in Iowa as editor and proprietor. He is a young man of unusual ability. A few years since he sold out the journal—The Bristow Enterprise—he was then editing at Bristow, Ia., and moved back to Rockford, where he embarked in the furniture business. In this he met with splendid success. Since selling out this business he has gone back to his first love, the printing business. We predict for him the brightest future and continued success.

Since writing the above, the Gazette has been purchased by G. F. Whitney, who is now both editor and proprietor, and who will continue to maintain the high standing of this journal.

A Useful and Valuable Invention by a Resident of Rockford, Iowa.

The editor of the Rural New Yorker says: "There are in this country today in round number 375,000,000 chickens and 40,000,000 other fowls. During 1897 the hens laid 14,400,000,000 eggs which brought over $165,000,000. Poultry sold as meat, delicious broilers and fricasses, brought at least $125,000,000 more, making the total hen crop $290,000,000.

In order to appreciate these figures and see the money in poultry comparative figures are necessary.

Value of wheat crop, $237,938,938; total of school expenditures, $178,215,556; value of minerals, $218,160,788; value of cotton, $259,164,640; value of milch cows, $263,955,548; earnings of poultry, $290,000,000.

When one sees the handsome profits from poultry it would seem as though more farmers would raise poultry, but when interviewed the farmers invariably claim that the hens lay only in summer when eggs, in Iowa for instance, bring only six cents a dozen, which doesn't pay.

More than one farmer has said, "If there was some easy, reliable way of keeping eggs fresh till winter when they command eighteen to twenty cents per dozen he would consider poultry raising more profitable than dairy or grain business." At last such a method of keeping eggs has been discovered and every bright farmer and egg dealer should investigate the subject.

After years of study and chemical experiment Mrs. W. D. Smith, of Rockford, Iowa, has succeeded in perfecting her work so that letters patent have been granted her in the United States and Canada for a new and valuable method of preserving eggs vastly superior to cold storage. The process consists in treating the eggs with a compound which excludes the light and air, fills the pores, but does not show on the shell. The eggs are immediately packed in boxes and do not need to be turned. Neither salt, lime nor salicylic acid is used. One-fourth cent per dozen will cover cost of material. This patent has been tested by chemists, egg dealers and reliable citizens.

NASHVILLE, TENN., May 20, 1897.

This is to certify that a box of eggs packed by a patent process, of which Mrs. W. D. Smith is the inventor, was placed in the First National Bank of Nashville December 20, 1896. The box was opened in our presence May 20, 1897, and the eggs on being broken were to all appearances fresh eggs.

H. W. GRANTLAND, Pres.
H. F. WILSON, Director.
ED. A. LINDSEY, B. N.

ROCKFORD, IA., Dec., 1897.

To whom it may concern:

A box of eggs packed by a patent process, of which Mrs. W. D. Smith is the inventor, was left in our bank August 3, 1897. After being there over three months the box was opened in our presence and the eggs on being tested proved to be equal to fresh eggs in flavor and appearance.

EDWARD BILLINGS, Pres.
J. S. CHILDS, Vice-Pres.
R. C. MATHEWS, Director.

We saw these eggs broken and they were as good as fresh eggs.

MICHELL & COGSWELL,
Egg Dealers.

We poached and ate some of these eggs. They were equal to newly-laid eggs.

J. S. TRIGG, Pub. of Register.

We examined some of these eggs under a microscope and found them equal to fresh eggs.

CLEMENT L. WEBSTER,
Scientist.

During August and September of that year the thermometer ranged from 85 to 100 degrees

Parties desiring to purchase a right to use this valuable invention address

MRS W. D SMITH,
Rockford, Iowa

Reasons Why.

Aside from the few representative and progressive citizens herein referred to, most of the citizens of Rockford refused to be represented in this history of the county, and mainly "because it was gotten up on the east side of the county." Every facility was offered to induce a just and creditable exhibit of their town and resources, but to no avail This is a matter of sincere regret

HENRY WYATT....

Dealer in Poultry and Doves

Highest Market Price Paid . . . .

It will be to your advantage to see me before selling.

ROCKFORD, IOWA.

**Blacksmithing,
Horseshoeing,
Plow Sharpening,
General Repairing.**

The Best of Work Guaranteed. . . .

Bring Me Your Work.

A. Freiberg.....

Conducted by A. G. Hilsman.

Main St., Rockford, Iowa.

..L. WHITNEY..

THE LEADING Furniture Dealer..... ROCKFORD IOWA.

Everything Carried in Stock Usually Found in a First-Class Store, Such as

Tables, Stands,
Chairs, Lounges,
Picture Moulding,
Mattresses, Notions,
Pictures, Etc.

It will pay you to call and see me and get my prices before buying.

Dyke & Dyke....

High Art

PRINTERS

....Charles City, Iowa.